# Matthew

Matthew is an historical account of Jesus’ life.

Matthew is known as a ‘Gospel’ (meaning ‘Good News’). It is traditionally understood to have been compiled and written by Jesus’ Apostle Matthew around the year 42 CE (9 years after Jesus’ death).

According to ancient sources, Matthew was the first Gospel written (modern scholars believe that the Gospel of Mark was first), and it was originally written in the ‘language of the Hebrews,’ which at the time would be Aramaic – not the language of the Greeks.

Ancient sources further report that the first translation of Matthew into Greek was lost, so it had to be translated again sometime in the early 2nd century CE. If true, then the Greek text of Matthew that we have today was actually a 2nd century translation, and the surviving Aramaic version may be closer to the original.

**Differences**

Since Matthew was (according to the Early Christians) the first Gospel, it allowed more time for corruptions to creep in to the text while Christians were still a small community. Indeed, it seems to us that Matthew has been corrupted more than any other Gospel.

Since we’re aware of this fact, you’ll see many differences between our translation of Matthew and others – as we’ve tried to identify and fix these corruptions. Don’t worry though, as we’ve added many links to translator notes, commentaries, Wikipedia, and other sources where you can learn more.

**The Poetry of Jesus**

Many of Jesus’ sermons and parables were given as poetry. This was common at the time because most people were illiterate, and there were no ways to electronically record speeches. Most communication was via word of mouth, and poetry and songs were the easiest things to remember and to repeat.

This poetic cadence is clearly seen by translators, but most Bibles have chosen not to translate it as poetry. Why not? Perhaps it’s because it requires more effort, and because many Bible readers aren’t interested in the beauty of his words, but in the contents.

However, Jesus made much effort to speak and teach beautifully, so it’s only proper that we also put in much effort to convey this to modern readers. So, we’ve attempted to translate Jesus’ words just as he spoke them – poetically – but not to the point of sacrificing accuracy.

### Matthew

## Chapter 1

1This is the scroll of the origins of Jesus the Anointed, the Son of David, the Son of AbraHam:

2**AbraHam** fathered IsaAc.
 IsaAc fathered Jacob.
 Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers.
 3Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar.
 Perez fathered HezRon.
 HezRon fathered Ram.
 4Ram fathered AmiNadab.
 AmiNadab fathered NaShon.
 NaShon fathered SalMon.
 5SalMon fathered BoAz by RaHab.
 BoAz fathered Obed by Ruth.
 Obed fathered JesSe.
 6JesSe fathered David, the king.

**David** fathered Solomon by the wife of UriAh.
 7Solomon fathered RehoBoam.
 RehoBoam fathered AbiJah.
 AbiJah fathered Asa.
 8Asa fathered JehoShaphat.
 JehoShaphat fathered JehoRam.
 JehoRam fathered UzZiAh.
 9UzZiAh fathered JoTham.
 JoTham fathered Ahaz.
 Ahaz fathered HezekiAh.
 10HezekiAh fathered ManasSeh.
 ManasSeh fathered Amon.
 Amon fathered JosiAh.
 11JosiAh fathered JeconiAh and his brothers before the deportation to Babylon.

12**After the deportation to Babylon**:
 JeconiAh fathered ShalathiEl.
 ShalathiEl fathered ZerubBabel.
 13ZerubBabel fathered AbiUd.
 AbiUd fathered EliAkim.
 EliAkim fathered Azor.
 14Azor fathered ZaDok.
 ZaDok fathered Achim.
 Achim fathered EliUd.
 15EliUd fathered EliAzar.
 EliAzar fathered MatThan.
 MatThan fathered Jacob.
 16Jacob fathered JoSeph [the father of Mary] from whom Jesus (who’s called the Anointed One) was born.

17So there were:

 • 14 generations from AbraHam to David,
 • 14 generations from David until the deportation to Babylon, and
 • 14 generations from the deportation to Babylon until [the coming of] the Anointed One.

18This is the way that Jesus the Anointed One started out:

While his mother Mary was promised in marriage to JoSeph, she was found to be pregnant by [God’s] Holy Breath before the marriage was consummated. 19However, because JoSeph (her man) was righteous and didn’t want to make [Mary] a public spectacle, he planned to release her secretly.

20But after he decided to do that, {Look!} Jehovah’s messenger appeared to him in a dream, saying:

 ‘JoSeph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been fathered in her is from [God’s] Holy Breath. 21She’ll give birth to a son and you must call his name Jesus [meaning, *Jehovah Saves*], because he will save his people from their sins.’

22This whole thing happened so that what was spoken by Jehovah through the Prophet would be fulfilled:

 23*‘{Look!} A virgin will get pregnant and then bear a son*
 *Whose name you must call, ImManuEl.’* [Meaning, *With Us is God*.]
 [Isaiah 7:14]

24Well, after JoSeph woke up, he did what Jehovah’s messenger told him to do, and he took the woman. 25However, [JoSeph] didn’t have sexual relations with her until after she’d given birth to a son, whom he called by the name Jesus.

### Matthew

## Chapter 2

1Then, after Jesus was born (in BethLehem of Judea during the days of King Herod), {Look!} Magi from the east came to JeruSalem, 2asking:

 ‘Where is this one who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and we came to bow low before him.’

3Well, when he heard about this, King Herod was very disturbed (as was everyone else in JeruSalem). 4So he gathered all the Chief Priests and the peoples’ Scribes and asked them where this Anointed One was to be born. 5And they replied:

 ‘In BethLehem of Judea… Because, this is what was written through the Prophet:

 6*‘And you, O BethLehem in the land of Judea*
 *Will no way be the least among rulers of Judah.*
 *For from you, will come forth a leader,*
 *Who will shepherd IsraEl, My people.*’
 [Micah 5:2]

7Then Herod secretly called for those Magi and carefully determined from them when the star had appeared. 8And before he sent them on to BethLehem, he said:

 ‘Search carefully for the young child... And when you find him, report back to me, so I can go and bow before him also.’

9Then, after listening to what the king had to say, they traveled on… For {Look!} the star that they saw in the east went ahead of them until it stood directly over [the place] where the young child was! 10Well, when they saw the star [do this], they were beside themselves with joy!

11And after they entered the house, they saw the little boy with Mary (his mother), and they fell down and bowed before him. Then they opened their treasures and gave the child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12However, because they’d been given a divine warning in a dream that they weren’t to return to Herod, they went back home via another route.

13Well, after they left, {Look!} Jehovah’s messenger appeared to JoSeph in a dream and said:

 ‘Get up! Take the boy and his mother, then hurry to Egypt and stay there until I tell you otherwise, because Herod is going to search for the boy to destroy him!’

14So he got up during the night and took the child and his mother, and they left for Egypt, 15where they stayed until after Herod died… So the thing that was said by Jehovah through the Prophet would be fulfilled:

 *‘I called My son out of Egypt.’* [Hosea 11:1]

16Well, when Herod saw that the Magi had outwitted him, he was furious. So he sent [a proclamation] throughout BethLehem and its districts to have all the boys that were two-years-old and younger to be gathered [for destruction], since that was the period he’d determined so carefully from the Magi.

17And that’s also when the thing that was spoken through the Prophet JeremiAh was fulfilled, which said:

 18*‘A voice was heard crying from RamAh…*
 *The sounds of weeping, wailing, and grief.*
 *It was the voice of RachEl, crying for her sons,*
 *And she refused to accept any comfort,*
 *Because they’re no longer [alive].’*
 [Jeremiah 31:15]

19Well, after Herod died, {Look!} Jehovah’s messenger appeared in a dream to JoSeph while he was in Egypt, 20and he said:

 ‘Now, get up and take the child and his mother back to the land of IsraEl, because those who wanted to take the child’s life are dead!’

21So [JoSeph] got up and took the child and his mother back to the land of IsraEl. 22However, when he heard that ArcheLaus had become the ruler in Judah in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, because of a divine warning that he had received in a dream.

As a result, he traveled to the territory of Galilee, 23and they went to live in a city named Nazareth.

So the thing that was spoken through the prophetSo the thing that was spoken through the prophet<sup class="difference">[Syr] was fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene, [meaning, contemptible].

### Matthew

## Chapter 3

1It was back in those days that John the Immerser came preaching in the desert around Judea, 2saying:

 ‘Repent, for the Kingdom [of God] has drawn near.’

3He’s the one about whom the Prophet IsaiAh spoke, saying:

 *‘A voice is calling out in the desert:*

 *‘Prepare the way for the Lord…*
 *Before him, straighten the roads!’*
 [Isaiah 40:3]

4John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, he had a thick leather belt around his waist, and what he ate was locusts and wild honey.

5Then, [people from] JeruSalem (as well as from the rest of Judea and the area all around the JorDan) came to him 6to be immersed in the JorDan River, as they openly admitted their sins.

7And when he saw many of the Pharisees and SadDucees coming to be immersed, he said to them:

 ‘Children of vipers!

 ‘Who has shown you the need to flee from the coming rage? 8You should first produce the [type of] fruit that proves you’re worthy of repentance!

 9‘And don’t be so bold as to say, *Our father is AbraHam*; for I tell you that God can make children of AbraHam from these stones!

 10‘Now the ax is already lying at the roots of the trees and every tree that isn’t producing good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire!

 11‘Indeed, I dip you in water [as a sign of your] repentance. But the one who is coming behind me is greater than me… In fact, I’m unfit to remove his sandals!

 ‘[When he arrives], he will immerse you in fire and Breath… 12Yes, he’ll [take] his shovel into his hands and completely clean up his threshing floor, then he will gather the ‘wheat’ into his storehouse and burn all the ‘chaff’ with a fire that can’t be extinguished!’

13Then sometime later, Jesus came from Galilee to see John at the JorDan River in order to be immersed by him. 14But [John] tried to prevent him, saying:

 ‘Since I’m the one who should be immersed by you; why are you coming to me?’

15But Jesus told him:

 ‘Let it be like this for now… This is the right thing for us to do, so we can fulfill all that’s righteous.’

And at that, [John] no longer tried to stop him.

16Well, after Jesus was immersed, immediately after he came up out of the water, {Look!} the heavens opened up before him, and [John] saw God’s Breath descending upon him [in the form of] a dove.

17And {Look!} there was also a voice that came out of the sky that said:

 ‘This is My dearly-loved Son, with whom I’m well pleased.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 4

1Then [God’s] Breath led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Slanderer. 2And after he’d fasted for 40 days and 40 nights, he became very hungry. 3So the Tempter came to him and said:

 ‘If you’re [really] the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread!’

4And [Jesus] replied:

 ‘It is written:

 *‘Man doesn’t live by just bread alone,*
 *But by every word that comes from God’s mouth*.’
 [Deuteronomy 8:3]

5Then the Slanderer took him to the Holy City and put him up on one of the Temple’s high battle towers. 6And he said:

 ‘If you’re [really] a son of God, jump down! For it is written:

 *‘He’ll assign [His] messengers around you,*
 *And on their hands, they’ll lift you,*
 *So you’ll not hit your foot on a stone.’*
 [Psalm 91:12]

7But Jesus told him:

 ‘Once again, it is written:

 *‘Don’t put Jehovah your God to the test*.’ [Deuteronomy 6:16]

8Then the Slanderer took him to an unusually high mountain where he showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9And he said:

 ‘I’ll give all of these to you if you’ll just bow before me with your face to the ground.’

10But Jesus replied:

 ‘Go away Slanderer, because it is written:

 *‘Indeed; you must worship Jehovah, your God,*
 *And Him alone should you serve*.’
 [Deuteronomy 6:13]

11Well after that, the Slanderer left him, and {Look!} [God’s] messengers came and started serving [Jesus’ needs].

12Then, it was after he heard that John had been arrested that [Jesus] returned to Galilee… 13He moved out of Nazareth and started living in CapharNaum (which is by the sea in the districts of ZebuLun and NaphTali). 14This was done so [the prophecy] that was spoken through the Prophet IsaiAh could be fulfilled:

 15*‘O lands of ZebuLun and NaphTali…*
 *You coasts and those on the JorDan’s east shore,*
 *And you, O Galilee of the gentiles;*
 16*The people who were traveling in darkness*
 *Then saw a [very] bright light.*
 *For a light will shine upon those*
 *That live in the place of the shadow of death.’*
 [Isaiah 9:1-2]

17Well, from that time on, Jesus started preaching and saying:

 ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of [God] has drawn near!’

18Then, it was while he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee that he saw two brothers, Simon (the one called Peter) and his brother Andrew… Fishermen who were casting their nets on the sea. 19And he said to them:

 ‘Follow me and I’ll make you fishers of men!’

20Well they immediately dropped their nets and started following him.

21And as he traveled on from there, he saw two more brothers, James [the son] of ZebediOu, and his brother John. They were in the boat with ZebediOu their father repairing their nets, when he called them… 22And right away, they left the boat and their father and they also started following him.

23Thereafter, [Jesus] traveled throughout all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and curing all the peoples’ diseases and infirmities.

24As a result, people heard about him all the way to the land of Syria, and they also brought their sick (those with various diseases and ailments, the demon-possessed, as well as epileptics and paralyzed persons), and he cured them all.

25So huge crowds from Galilee, the DecaPolis, JeruSalem and the rest of Judea, as well as those from the other side of the JorDan, started following him.

### Matthew

## Chapter 5

1Well, when [Jesus] saw the crowds, he went up a mountain and sat down, and his disciples came to him. 2Then he opened his mouth and started teaching them, saying:

 3‘Blest are the humble;
 For theirs is the Kingdom of [God].

 4‘Blest are those who are sad;
 For they’ll be given comfort.

 5‘Blest are also the meek;
 For they’ll inherit the land.

 6‘Those hungering and thirsting for righteousness are blest;
 For they’ll find satisfaction.

 7‘Blest are those who show mercy;
 For mercy is what they’ll receive.

 8‘Blest are those with pure hearts;
 For they’ll [come to] see God.

 9‘Blest are those who make peace;
 For they’ll be called Sons of God.

 10‘Blest are those who receive persecution
 For doing [things that are] righteous,
 Since theirs is the Kingdom of [God].

 11‘You’re blest when they [shout] insults at you,
 And when they persecute you,
 Then say many bad things about you
 And lie about you for my sake.

 12‘For this, you should [cry out in] joy;
 Since your reward in the heavens is great,
 For that’s how they treated the Prophets before you.

 13‘You’re the salt of the earth;
 But if salt becomes weak, is it still salt?
 No, when it no longer has strength,
 It’s thrown outside to be walked on.

 14‘You’re the light of this world…
 And a city on a hill can’t be hidden!

 15‘You don’t light a lamp
 And then put it under a basket…
 You put it on a lampstand instead,
 Where it can shine throughout the whole house!

 16‘So let your light shine before all,
 Then they can speak of the good things you’ve done
 And give glory to your Father in the heavens.

 17‘Don’t think that I came to destroy
 The Law or the [words of the] Prophets…
 For I came to fulfill, not to destroy.

 18‘I’m telling you the truth when I say that it’s more likely that the land and skies would pass away, than for an iota or a small point on a letter of the Law to pass away before it’s all fulfilled.

 19‘So, whoever breaks the least of the commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the least in the Kingdom of [God], while those who teach and follow them will be called great in the Kingdom.

 20‘I also say this to you:

 ‘If you aren’t more righteous than the Scribes and Pharisees, you won’t enter the Kingdom of [God].

 21‘You’ve heard that the ancients were told:

 *‘You must not commit murder, for those who murder will be judged.’*

 22‘However, I tell you this:

 ‘Anyone who stays angry with his brother will have to be judged, and anyone who calls his brother empty-headed must stand before the religious court. Also, anyone who [calls his brother] a moron will be [condemned] to the garbage-dump fires.

 23‘And if you bring a gift to [God’s] Altar, but while you’re on the way you remember that your brother holds something against you; 24leave your gift at the Altar and go [to him].

 ‘First make peace with your brother, and then return to offer your gift.

 25‘Also, while you’re on your way [to a court], you should quickly work out an agreement with your adversary, so you won’t have to leave the matter in the hands of the judge... Who may hand you over to the bailiff... Who’ll then lock you in jail.

 26‘If that happens, I tell you this for a fact:

 ‘You won’t be released ‘til you’ve paid the last penny!

 27‘You’ve all heard that it’s said:

 *‘You must not commit adultery.’*

 28‘But I tell you that any man who stares at a woman and develops a desire [to have] her, has committed adultery [with her] in his heart.

 29‘So if your right eye becomes a trap to you, pull it out and throw it away! For it’s better to lose a piece of yourself than to lose your whole body in the garbage dump. 30Or if your right hand becomes a trap to you, cut it off and throw it away! For it’s better to lose a piece of yourself than to lose your whole body in the garbage dump.

 31‘It is also said that [any man] who releases his woman should give her a certificate of rejection. 32But I say:

 ‘[Any man] who releases his woman except on account of sexual immorality, leads her into adultery. And [any man] who marries a woman who’s been released is committing adultery.

 33‘Again, you heard it was said long ago:

 *‘You must not swear a false oath; rather, you must do as you vow to Jehovah.’* [paraphrase of Numbers 30:2]

 34‘However, I tell you this: Swear oaths by nothing at all!

 ‘Don’t swear by heaven,
 For that’s God’s throne;

 35‘Nor should you swear oaths by the earth,
 Because that’s also [God’s] footstool;

 ‘And don’t swear by JeruSalem,
 For that’s the city of the great king.

 36‘Don’t swear oaths by the hairs on your head,
 For you can’t turn a hair black or white!

 37‘Let your yes just mean yes,
 And let your no just mean no,
 For it’s things like this that lead you towards evil.

 38‘You’ve also heard it was said:

 *‘Eye for eye and tooth for tooth.’*

 39‘But I’m telling you this: Don’t oppose evil men.

 ‘So if someone slaps your right cheek,
 Turn the other to him also.

 40‘And if someone wants to take you to court
 And sue for your underwear,
 Give him the rest of your clothes!

 41‘Or if someone makes you to serve him for a mile,
 Go with him for two miles!

 42‘Yes, give freely to all those who ask,
 And don’t turn away those wishing to borrow.

 43‘You’ve heard the saying that goes:

 *‘You must love all your neighbors*
 *And dislike [all of] your enemies.’*

 44‘But I say:

 ‘Show love for your enemies
 And pray for those who persecute you;

 45‘For by doing this, you’ll prove yourselves
 The sons of your Father in the heavens
 Who lets the sun arise on the wicked and the good,
 And sends rain to the righteous and the unrighteous.

 46‘For if you only love those who love you;
 What reward are you really due…
 Don’t tax collectors do the same thing?

 47‘And if you greet only your brothers;
 What are you doing that’s special…
 Don’t the gentiles do the same thing?

 48‘So, just be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect!’

### Matthew

## Chapter 6

 1‘Be careful not to practice your righteousness before other men so that they can see what you’re doing; for if you do, you won’t receive a reward from your Father in the heavens.

 2‘And when you’re giving gifts to the needy, don’t blow a trumpet in the synagogue or out in the streets like the hypocrites do so they can be praised by the people. I tell you the truth: when they do this, that’s the only reward they’ll receive!

 3‘Rather, when you give gifts to the needy, don’t [tell] your left hand what your right hand is doing. 4Give your gifts to the needy in secret, and then your Father who watches in secret will be [the One] that repays you.

 5‘And don’t pray like the hypocrites do, for they [like to] pray as they’re standing in their synagogues and on the corners of the main streets, so that people will notice what they’re doing. I tell you the truth: that’s their full reward.

 6‘Instead, when you pray, go into your room and after shutting the door, pray to your Father in secret. Then you’ll be repaid by your Father who’s watching in secret.

 7‘Also, when praying, don’t babble the same words like the gentiles do. For they think that they may only be heard through the use of many words. 8No, don’t act like them, for your God and Father already knows everything that you need before you ask Him.

 9‘Now, this is how you should pray:

 *‘Our Father who’s in the heavens,*
 *May Your Name be treated as Holy,*
 10*And may Your Kingdom arrive…*
 *May Your Will take place on the earth,*
 *As it has in the heavens.*

 11*‘Give us our bread for this day,*
 12*And please forgive all our debts,*
 *As we’ve forgiven our debtors.*
 13*Into temptation, may we not be led,*
 *And from the wicked [one], save us.’*

 ~~For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.~~
 ~~Amen.~~ [spurious]

 14‘For if you’re willing to forgive other people’s errors, your Father in the heavens will overlook yours. 15However, if you aren’t willing to forgive their errors, your Father won’t forgive yours either.

 16‘Also, when you fast, don’t put on a sad face like the hypocrites do, because they contort their faces to make sure that everyone knows they’re fasting. I tell you the truth: this is all the reward they’ll receive.

 17‘But whenever you fast, wash your face and rub your head with oil, 18so that no one will know that you’re fasting other than your Father who’s watching in secret… And then your Father who’s watching in secret will be [the One] that repays you.

 19‘Stop storing up treasures here on the earth that can be eaten by rust and by moths, or which thieves can break in and steal. 20Rather, store your treasures in the heavens where they can’t be consumed by moths or by rust, and where thieves can’t break in and steal them.

 21‘For your hearts will be wherever your treasures are!

 22‘Your eyes are the lamps of your bodies, and if [you keep] your eyes simple, they’ll make your whole body bright. 23But if your eyes are just wicked, they’ll make your whole body dark. And when the only light within you is darkness... How great that darkness will be!

 24‘No one can slave for two masters. For you’ll [find that] you won’t care for one, but love the other… Yes, you’ll be devoted to one, but you’ll despise the other…

 ‘And this is why you can’t slave for God and for wealth!

 25‘I’m also telling you that you shouldn’t worry about your lives, or what you’ll eat, ~~or what you’ll drink~~ [spurious] or your bodies and what you’ll wear. The person you are inside is more important than food; your body is more important than clothes.

 26‘Rather, notice the birds in the skies… They don’t plant seeds, or harvest, or put things in storage sheds, because your Father in the heavens provides their food… And aren’t you [greater than] they are?

 27‘Which of you can, through worry, add even a smidgen of length to your lifespan?

 28‘Also, when it comes to clothes, why should you worry? Rather, pay attention to the way that lilies grow in the fields. For even though they don’t work or spin cloth, 29not even Solomon in all of his glory was as well-dressed as them.

 30‘So, if God so well-dresses the plants in the fields (that are here today and thrown into the oven tomorrow), wouldn’t He rather clothe you… You with so little faith?

 31‘Therefore, never be worried and ask, *What are we going to eat or drink,* or, *What are we going to wear?*

 32‘For these are the types of things that the gentiles are concerned with… And your Father in the heavens already knows that you need these things! 33Rather, put the Kingdom and righteousness first, and then all these other things will be given to you.

 34‘No, don’t worry about what tomorrow will bring,
 For tomorrow will have its own problems,
 And each day will have its own badness.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 7

 1‘Don’t judge others, so you won’t be judged…

 2‘For the [rules] by which you judge others
 Are the rules they’ll use to judge you.
 And the standards you’re setting for them
 Are the standards that they’ll set for you.

 3‘Why look for the chaff in your brother’s eye,
 When you can’t see the rafter in yours?
 4For, how can you say to your brother,
 *Let me remove this chaff from your eye,*
 When {Look!} there’s a rafter in yours?

 5‘Hypocrites!
 Remove first the rafters from your own eyes,
 And then you’ll be able to see
 How to take chaff from the eye of your brother.

 6‘And don’t lay your holy things before dogs
 Nor throw your pearls before pigs,
 So they can’t trample them under their feet
 And then turn around and gore you.

 7‘Keep asking and you’ll receive…
 Keep searching and you’ll find…
 Keep knocking and [the door] will be opened.
 8For all will receive that keep asking…
 All that keep searching, will find…
 And [the door] will be opened to all those who knock.

 9‘For about which man, isn’t this true:
 If his son should ask him for bread,
 He won’t hand him a stone.
 10Or if he should ask for a fish,
 He won’t hand him a snake.

 11‘So if you, in your wicked condition,
 Will provide good gifts to your children;
 How much more will your Father in heaven
 Give good things to those who keep asking?

 12‘Also, as you would like to be treated,
 Is the way that you should treat others.
 For, that’s [the whole point] of the Law and the Prophets!

 13‘You should enter through the gate that’s narrow;
 For the road to destruction is both broad and wide,
 And that’s the way most people are going.
 14But the gateway to life is narrow and tight,
 And few are those who can find it.

 15‘Beware of false prophets that come dressed as sheep,
 But on the inside, are just hungry wolves.
 16You’ll recognize them by the fruit that they bear…
 For you don’t pick grapes from the briers,
 And you don’t pick figs among thistles.

 17‘A good tree will bear fruit that’s good,
 While the rotten ones bear fruit that’s bad.
 18So a good tree won’t bear fruit that’s bad,
 And a rotten tree won’t bear fruit that’s good.
 19Then the trees that don’t bear good fruit
 Will be cut down and thrown in a fire…
 20So you’ll recognize them by the fruit that they bear!

 21‘Not all that shout *Lord, Lord,* to me
 Will enter the Kingdom of [God]…
 Just those who are doing the will
 Of my Father in the heavens.

 22‘Yet, many will say, *O Lord!*
 *In your name, didn’t I prophesy?*
 *And in your name, didn’t I cast out demons?*
 *Yes, haven’t we done great deeds in your name?*
 23But I’ll tell them: *I never knew you…*
 *Get away from me, you lawbreakers!*

 24‘Now, those who listen and do as I say
 Are like the very wise man
 That founded his home upon rock.
 25So because of its solid foundation,
 It’ll be able to stand
 When winds, floods, and rains beat on his house.

 26‘Yet, those who hear and don’t do as I say
 Are like fools that build their houses on sand.
 27For, when they face winds, rains, and floods,
 Their houses will fall in a mighty collapse.’

28Well after Jesus finished saying these things, the crowds were awe-struck by his way of teaching. 29Because unlike their Scribes, he taught with authority.

### Matthew

## Chapter 8

1Then, as he was coming down the mountain (along with a large crowd that was following him), 2{Look!} a man with leprosy came up and bowed low before him, and said:

 ‘Lord, if you just want to, you can make me clean!’

3So [Jesus] stuck out his hand and touched him, and said:

 ‘I want to… Be clean.’

And [the man] was immediately wiped clean of his leprosy.

4Then Jesus said to him:

 ‘Don’t tell anyone [about this]… Just go and show yourself to the Priests, then offer the gift that Moses specified, so they can testify to what happened.’

5And as he was entering CapharNaum, a [Roman] Centurion came up to him and said:

 6‘Lord,

 ‘My [house]boy is so paralyzed that he can’t leave my home, and he’s in a lot of pain!’

7So [Jesus] told him:

 ‘I’ll cure him when I get there.’

8However, the Centurion said:

 ‘Sir, I’m unfit to have you enter my house… Just say the word and I know that he will be healed. 9For I’m also a man who’s been given a lot of authority, because I have many soldiers under me. So if I tell this one, *Be on your way,* he’s on his way; if I say to another, *Come,* he comes. So, whatever I tell my slave to do, he does.’

10Well, Jesus was amazed at this, and he said this to those who were following him:

 ‘I tell you the truth: I haven’t found anyone in IsraEl with this much faith!

 11‘So I’m saying this:

 ‘Many will be coming from the sunrise to the sunset, and they’ll recline [at the table] along with AbraHam, IsaAc, and Jacob in the Kingdom of [God], 12while the Sons of the Kingdom will be thrown outside into the darkness, where they’ll cry and grind their teeth.’

13Then Jesus said to the Centurion:

 ‘Just go on… Let it be just as you’ve believed!’

And the man’s [house]boy was healed in that very hour.

14Well, when he finally arrived at Peter’s house, Jesus saw [Peter’s] mother-in-law lying down, because she had a fever. 15So he touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then, she got up and started serving him.

16Then later that evening, people started bringing him many of the demon-possessed. So he cast out the spirits with [just] a word, and he cured all of those who were ill, 17so that the words that were spoken through the Prophet IsaiAh could be fulfilled:

 ‘He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.’ [Isaiah 53:4]

18However, when Jesus saw that a huge crowd had started to form, he said to [his disciples]:

 ‘Let’s go over to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee].’

19But [as they were leaving], a scribe came up to him and said:

 ‘Teacher, I’ll follow you wherever you go!’

20And Jesus said to him:

 ‘Although foxes have burrows and birds in the skies have their nests,
 The Son of Man has no place to lay his head.’

21Then another disciple came up to him and said:

 ‘Lord, please allow me to go and bury my father first.’

22But Jesus said to him:

 ‘Just keep on following me and let the dead bury their own dead.’

23Well after that, Jesus and his disciples stepped into a boat and left. 24But soon, {Look!} the sea became agitated and waves started crashing over the boat… Yet, [Jesus] was just lying there sleeping. 25So [the disciples] went over and woke him up, and said:

 ‘Lord, please save us, for we’re about to be destroyed!’

26But [Jesus] asked:

 ‘Why are you so afraid… You with so little faith?’

Then he got up and scolded the winds and the sea, and a great calm set in, 27which caused the [disciples] to start wondering and asking each other:

 ‘What kind of person is this? For even the winds and the seas obey him!’

28Well, when they got to the other side [of the sea], into the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men came out from among the tombs to meet him. They were so unusually fierce that no one else had the courage to even pass that way.

29Then {Look!} they started shouting:

 ‘What do you want with us, O Son of God? Did you come here before the appointed time to torment us?’

30Well, it so happened that at the time, there happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding [in a field] some distance away. 31So the demons started begging [Jesus], saying:

 ‘If you’re going to cast us out, send us into that herd of pigs!’

32And [Jesus] said to them:

 ‘Then go!’

So they came out and went into the pigs, and {Look!} the entire herd ran down a steep cliff into the sea, where they [drowned] in the water.

33Well after that happened, the people who’d been keeping watch over the pigs in the field ran away. And when they got to the city, they told everyone about the things that they saw… Including what [Jesus had done] to the demon-possessed men.

34So {Look!} all the people in the city then came out to meet Jesus. However, when they saw him, they begged him to just cross back [over the sea] and leave their district.

### Matthew

## Chapter 9

1So then he stepped back into the boat, and they traveled back to the town where he’d been staying. 2And when he got there, {Look!} some people brought him a paralyzed man who was lying on a cot.

Then when he saw that the man had a lot of faith, Jesus said to him:

 ‘Take courage child; your sins are forgiven.’

3However, {Look!} some Scribes [who heard him say this] were thinking to themselves:

 ‘He’s blaspheming!’

4But Jesus (who knew what they were thinking) asked them:

 ‘Why are you thinking such wicked things in your hearts? 5Is it easier to say, *your sins are forgiven*, or just, *get up and walk*? 6However, I want you to know that the Son of Man has the power to forgive sins here on the earth.’

So at that, he said to the paralyzed man:

 ‘Now, get up, pick up your cot, and go home.’

7And the man just got up and went home!

8Well when the crowds saw this, they were all frightened and they started praising The God who gives such powers to men. 9So thereafter, he left that place.

As he was traveling on, Jesus noticed a man named Matthew sitting in a tax office, and he said to him:

 ‘Be my follower.’

And immediately, [Matthew] got up and started following him.

10Then later, while [Jesus] was reclining at a table in [Matthew’s] home, {Look!} many tax collectors and sinners started coming in and reclining next to Jesus and his disciples. 11But on seeing this, the Pharisees asked [Jesus’] disciples:

 ‘Why is your teacher eating with these tax collectors and sinners?’

12Well, [Jesus] overheard them saying this, so he told them:

 ‘Healthy people don’t need doctors… Only the sick do.13Now, go and learn the meaning of the words, *I want mercy, not sacrifice.* For I didn’t come here to call the righteous, just the sinners.’

14Then some of John’s disciples came to [Jesus] and said to him:

 ‘We and the Pharisees always fast… So, why don’t your disciples fast?’

15And Jesus answered:

 ‘The bridegroom’s friends don’t have any reason to be sad when he’s with them, do they? However, the day is coming when the bridegroom will be taken away from them… And then they’ll fast.’

 16‘Understand that nobody sews a patch of un-shrunk cloth onto old clothes, because its [shrinking] strength will pull the clothes and make the tear worse.

 17‘And people don’t put new wine into old wineskins; for if they do, the old wineskins will burst, spilling the wine and ruining the skins… This is why people put new wine into new wineskins, so that both things are preserved.’

18Well, as he was saying this, {Look!} a certain ruler came up and bowed low before him, saying:

 ‘By now my daughter may have died… So please come and lay your hands on her to bring her back to life!’

19Therefore, Jesus got up and followed the man (as did his disciples).

20However, [as he was on the way], {Look!} a woman who had suffered from a blood flow for some 12 years came up behind him and touched the fringes on his robe. 21[She did this] because she kept saying:

 ‘If I can just touch his clothes, I’ll be saved [from this illness].’

22Then when Jesus turned around and saw her, he said to her:

 ‘Take courage daughter; your faith has saved you.’

And from that time on, the woman was healed.

23Thereafter, when he got to the house of the ruler and saw flute players and a wailing crowd, 24Jesus said:

 ‘You should all leave now, because the little girl isn’t really dead, she’s just sleeping!’

Well, everyone started laughing and making fun of him because of this. 25But after the crowd had been ushered outside, [Jesus] went in and took hold of her hand, and the little girl stood up!

26So, word of what happened there was quickly spread throughout that whole area.

27Then, just as Jesus was leaving that place, two blind men came up and started following him, hoarsely shouting:

 ‘Have pity on us, O Son of David!’

28And when he entered the house [where he was staying], these blind men followed him inside. So Jesus asked them:

 ‘Do you really believe that I can do this thing?’

And they answered:

 ‘Yes, Lord!’

29So he touched their eyes and said:

 ‘As you believed, may it happen to you!’

30And at that, their eyes were opened.

Then Jesus warned them sternly:

 ‘Now, don’t tell anyone about this!’

31But after they left, they started spreading the news [about what he’d done] throughout that whole area.

32And then, before he could leave, {Look!} some more people brought him a man who couldn’t speak, because he was demon possessed. 33And after Jesus cast out the demon, the man was able to speak, which amazed the crowds. So they were saying:

 ‘Nothing like this has ever been seen in IsraEl.’

34However, the Pharisees were saying:

 ‘He’s casting out demons by the ruler of the demons!’

35Well, from there, Jesus traveled throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and curing every sort of disease and infirmity.

36For when he looked at the crowds, he felt pity, because they were scraped and knocked about like sheep without a shepherd.

37Then he said to his disciples:

 ‘There is, in fact, a huge harvest... But there aren’t enough workers. 38So, beg the Master of the harvest to send more workers into the field to do His harvesting.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 10

1Well after that, he called twelve of his disciples to him and he gave them the power to dominate and throw out unclean spirits and to cure every sort of disease and infirmity.

2These are the names of those twelve Apostles:

First there was Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew.

And there was James (son of ZebediOu) and his brother John.

3There was also:

 • Philip,
 • BarTholomew ([NathaniEl]),
 • Thomas,
 • Matthew (the tax collector),
 • James (son of Alpheus),
 • ThadDeus ([Judas]),
 • 4Simon (the CanaNaean), and
 • Judas IsCariot (who [later] betrayed him).

5Jesus thereafter sent these twelve out, giving them the orders:

 ‘Don’t go to the gentiles or to any of the Samaritan cities… 6Just go to the lost sheep of the house of IsraEl.

 7‘[You should each] go your own way; and as you go, you should proclaim that the Kingdom of [God] has drawn near.

 8‘Cure sick people, ~~raise the dead,~~ [spurious] make lepers clean, and throw out demons… You received it freely, so give it freely!

 9‘You won’t have to carry along any gold, silver, or copper [coins] in your waist sashes 10or a food pouch for the trip; nor should you carry two pairs of underwear, or extra sandals, or walking sticks, because the worker has earned his provisions.

 11‘Then, whenever you enter a city or village, you should search for those who are deserving and stay with them until you must travel on. 12And when you enter any house, offer the household a greeting of peace… 13And if the house is worthy, let peace come into it. But if it isn’t worthy, let the peace return to you.

 14‘Wherever the people don’t take you in and listen to your words; when you leave that house or that city, just shake the dust off your feet. 15For I tell you the truth: On the Judgment Day, it will be more bearable for the lands of Sodom and GomorRah than for that city!

 16‘Look! I’m sending you out as sheep among wolves. So, prove yourselves to be as cautious as snakes while remaining as innocent as doves.

 17‘Now, be careful, because men will carry you before religious courts and they’ll whip you in their synagogues. 18Yes, you’ll be taken before governors and kings for my sake as a witness to them and to the gentiles. 19But when they bring you up [for trial], don’t worry about what you should say or how you should say it, because right then, you’ll be given what you have to say... 20You won’t be the one doing the talking, the Breath of your Father will be speaking through you.

 21‘For, brothers will hand their own brothers over for death, and fathers will do the same to their children.

 ‘Yes, even children will rise against their own parents and hand them over for death.

 ‘22Everyone will hate you because of my name… But those who endure to the end will be saved.

 23‘So when they chase you out of one city, just run to another. For I tell you the truth: You may not get to all of IsraEl’s cities before the Son of Man arrives.

 24‘Understand that a disciple can’t be *greater* than his teacher and a slave can’t be *greater* than his master. 25However, a disciple may become *like* his teacher and a slave may become *like* his master.

 ‘But if they’re calling the master BeElZebub, then how much more [will they say this] of those in his home?

 26‘So [expect this] to happen to you, and don’t be afraid!

 ‘For there’s nothing that’s covered which won’t be shown
 And there are no secrets that won’t be known.
 27What I say in darkness, you must say in the light;
 And whatever is whispered to you in your ear
 Must be proclaimed from the rooftops!

 28‘Don’t fear those who can kill the body,
 But can’t kill the person within.
 Rather, fear the One who can fully destroy
 The person and his body in the garbage.

 29‘Don’t two sparrows cost very little?
 Yet whenever one falls to the ground,
 Your Father’s aware of what happened…
 30For He’s even counted the hairs on your head!
 31So you have no reason to fear;
 For, more than many sparrows, is your value to Him!

 32‘If you’ll admit that you’re with me to others,
 I’ll also admit that I’m with you
 Before my Father in the heavens.

 33‘But if you deny that you know me to men,
 I’ll also deny knowing you
 Before my Father in the heavens.

 34‘Don’t think that I came to bring peace to the earth;
 For I’m not bringing peace… Just the sword!
 35I came to divide fathers from sons,
 As well as daughters from mothers
 And brides from their mothers-in-law.

 36‘Your enemies will be those in your own homes;
 37But those who care less for me
 Than for their fathers or mothers,
 [Will never] be worthy of me.

 ‘And the one who cares less for me
 Than for his sons or his daughters,
 Isn’t worthy of me.

 38‘Those who won’t lift their own torture poles
 And follow behind me, aren’t worthy.

 39‘For those who seek first their own lives
 Are really the ones who’ll lose them;
 But they’ll find them, if they lose their lives for my sake.

 40‘Those who invite you into [their homes]
 Are also inviting me in.
 And those who are inviting me in,
 Are inviting the One by whom I was sent.

 41‘Those who welcome a Prophet because he’s a Prophet,
 Will receive a Prophet’s reward.
 And those who welcome the righteous because they’re righteous,
 Will receive the reward of the righteous.

 42‘For whoever gives one of these least ones
 So much as a cold cup of water
 Because he’s my disciple…
 I swear that he won’t lose his reward.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 11

1Now, after Jesus had finished giving his twelve disciples these instructions, he went out to preach and teach in their cities.

2However, because John [the Immerser] (who was in jail) heard about the things that the Anointed One was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him 3whether he was really the one who was to come, or if they should expect someone else.

4And this is what Jesus told them:

 ‘Go back and report to John all that you’re seeing and hearing!

 5‘Tell him that the blind are seeing, the lame are walking, the lepers are being cleansed, the deaf are hearing, the dead are being raised, and the poor are being taught the good news.

 6‘So, anyone who doesn’t stumble over me will be blest.’

7Then after [John’s disciples] had left, Jesus asked the crowd this about John:

 ‘What did you go to the desert to see…
 Reeds being blown in the wind?
 8Yes, what did you go out to see…
 A man who’s dressed in soft clothes?

 ‘Those wearing soft clothes live in mansions!
 9So, why did you really go out there?
 Did [you go there] to [visit] a Prophet?
 Yes, and one who’s more than a Prophet!

 10‘For, this is the one of whom it was written:

 *‘{Look!} I’ll send My messenger ahead*
 *To prepare the road that’s before him!’*
 [Malachi 3:1]

 11‘I tell you the truth: Of those born to women, none have been raised that are greater than John. But the least in the Kingdom of [God] will be greater than him.

 12‘For from the time of John [until now], the Kingdom of [God] has been taken by force… And the forceful are the ones who’ve seized it. 13Indeed, this was all prophesied in the Law and the Prophets. 14And if you’re willing to accept it; he’s the EliJah that was to come [first]… 15Let those who have ears pay attention!

 16‘To whom can I liken this people? They’re like children playing in the markets that shout at their mates:

 17*‘We played the flute, but you didn’t dance…*
 *We wailed, but you didn’t beat on your chests!’*

 18‘When John came along; because he didn’t eat fine food or drink any [wine], they said that he had a demon! 19But because the Son of Man loves fine foods and wine, they call him an alcoholic and glutton… A friend of tax collectors and sinners!

 ‘Yet, wisdom is proven righteous by its results.’

20And then he started to berate the cities where he’d done most of his powerful deeds, because they hadn’t repented.

He said:

 21‘Woe to you, O ChoraZin, and woe to you, O BethSaida; for if the powerful deeds that had happened in you had also happened in Tyre and Sidon, then they would have repented in sackcloth and ashes.

 22‘But I tell you: It’ll be easier for Tyre and Sidon on Judgment Day than for you!

 23‘And you, O CapharNaum, will you be raised to the heavens? No, you’ll go down to the place of the dead!

 ‘For if the powerful deeds that happened in you had also happened in Sodom, [that city] would still be here today.

 24‘So I tell you that it’ll be better for the land of Sodom on Judgment Day than it will be for you!’

25Then it was concerning this that Jesus prayed:

 ‘I publicly praise you O Father,
 Lord of the heavens and earth;
 For You’ve hidden these things from the smart and the wise,
 While You revealed them to infants.

 26‘Yes Father; this is the thing that You have approved.

 27‘All that I have, came from my Father;
 For no one knows the Father as well as His son,
 And no one knows the son as well as his Father…
 Or those to whom he’s revealed Him.

 28‘So, come to me, you who’ve worked hard,
 And you who’ve born heavy loads,
 Because I’ll bring you refreshment.

 29‘Yes, learn from me and put on my yoke.
 For I’m meek and I have a kind heart,
 So your souls will find refreshment in me.
 30This yoke of mine is very gentle
 And the load [I give you] is light!’

### Matthew

## Chapter 12

1Well, as Jesus was traveling through some grain fields on a Sabbath, his disciples got hungry and they started plucking some of the grain and eating it. 2But when the Pharisees saw this, they said:

 ‘Look! Your disciples are doing what’s illegal on the Sabbath!’

3And [Jesus] said to them:

 ‘Haven’t you read what David did when he and his men got hungry… 4How they entered God’s House and ate the show bread on Jehovah’s table, which wasn’t legal for them to eat, since it was only for the Priests?

 5‘Or haven’t you read in the Law that the Priests in the Temple can break the Sabbath rules [by offering sacrifices] and not be found guilty?

 6‘So I’m telling you that something greater than the Temple is here now! 7And if you understood what the words mean, *‘I want mercy, not sacrifices,’* you probably wouldn’t be condemning these innocent ones.

 8‘For the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath!’

9Then from there, Jesus entered their synagogue, 10where {Look!} he found a man who had a withered hand. So [those Pharisees] then asked him:

 ‘Is it legal to heal on the Sabbath?’

(They said this so they could find something that they could accuse him of doing wrong).

11And he asked them:

 ‘If any of you had a sheep that fell into a pit on the Sabbath; which one of you wouldn’t go there to lift it out?

 12‘So, since a man is worth much more than a sheep… Yes, it is legal to do good things for him on the Sabbath!’

13And at that, he said to the man:

 ‘Now, stretch out your hand.’

And when he stretched it out, it became healthy just like the other hand!

14Well, thereafter, the Pharisees then went out and assembled a counsel to destroy [Jesus]. 15However, Jesus knew what they were planning, so he left that place.

There were many [people who traveled] with him at that time, and he cured them all. 16But he sternly warned them not to expose him, 17so that the words spoken through the Prophet IsaiAh might be fulfilled:

 18*‘{Look} My servant, whom I have chosen…*
 *My loved one who’s approved by My Soul!*
 *In him, I’ll now put My Breath,*
 *And he’ll tell the nations about My decisions.*

 19*‘Yet, he won’t argue or shout,*
 *Nor in the main streets, will they hear his voice.*
 20*He won’t crush a bruised reed,*
 *Nor will he extinguish a smoking flax wick*
 *Until he brings triumph to justice*
 21*And the nations put hope in his name.’*
 [Isaiah 42:1]

22Well after that, they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and couldn’t speak, and he cured him so that he could both speak and see. 23This amazed the crowds and they all started asking:

 ‘Isn’t this the Son of David?’

24However, when the Pharisees heard them saying this, they said:

 ‘He’s throwing out demons by [the power of]BeElZebub the ruler of the demons!’

25Of course, [Jesus] knew what they were thinking, so he said this to them:

 ‘A kingdom that’s divided will fall,
 And a city or house that’s divided won’t stand.
 26So if the Opposer casts out the Opposer,
 He’s fighting himself and his kingdom won’t stand.

 27‘Now, if I’m really using BeElZebub’s [power] to cast out demons, then whose [power] are your sons using when they cast them out?

 ‘You see; it’s things like this that condemn you!

 28‘For if I’m really casting out demons by means of God’s Breath, then God’s Kingdom has rolled over you! 29After all, no one can break into the house of a powerful person and steal his things unless they first tie him up… Only then can they loot his house.

 30‘So now; those who aren’t with me are against me, and those who aren’t on my side will be scattered.

 31‘And I’m telling you this: All sins and blasphemies can be forgiven… But not blasphemy against [God’s Holy] Breath. That won’t be forgiven!

 32‘If someone speaks badly against the Son of Man, this is something that can be forgiven. But if someone blasphemes [God’s] Holy Breath, he won’t be forgiven… No, not in this age or in that to come.

 33‘So, either declare the tree and its fruit to be good or declare it [all] to be rotten. For you’ll recognize the trees by the fruit that they bear.

 34‘O you offspring of vipers! How can evil people like you speak of good things, since what you’re saying is coming from your hearts? 35A good man will bring what’s good from the good [that’s in his heart], while the evil just bring bad things from what’s stored there.

 36‘So I’m telling you now that when the Judgment Day arrives, you’ll each answer for the things that you’ve said to mislead…

 37‘You’ll either be found righteous, or you’ll be condemned by the things that you’re saying.’

38Then some of the Scribes and Pharisees came up to him and said:

 ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from you!’

39And [Jesus] replied:

 ‘A wicked and adulterous people [is always] looking for signs. However, they won’t receive one other than the sign of Jonah the Prophet. 40For as Jonah was in the sea creature’s belly for three days and three nights; the Son of Man will be in the heart of the ground for three days and three nights.

 41‘Then the men of Nineveh will stand in the Judgment along with this people and they’ll condemn it; for they repented at what Jonah preached…

 ‘But look; something greater than Jonah is here!

 42‘The Queen of the South will also arise in the judgment and she will condemn this people; for she came from the ends of the land to listen to Solomon’s wisdom…

 ‘But look; something greater than Solomon is here!

 43‘When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it travels through [many] dry places searching for a [good] place to rest.

 ‘But if it can’t find one, it says:

 44*‘I’ll just go back to the house that I left.’*

 ‘And then, upon his return, if he finds [the house] empty, furnished, and swept, 45he’ll move back in, bringing along seven more spirits that are even more wicked than himself. So then, after [he] gets inside [of the man], the others will dwell in him also, making things worse for him than they were before… Yet, that’s how this people will be.’

46Well, while he was still talking to the crowds, {Look!} his mother and brothers showed up and they were standing outside waiting to speak to him. 47So someone said to [Jesus]:

 ‘Look, your mother and brothers are standing outside and waiting to speak to you.’

48But he said:

 ‘Just who’s my mother, and who are my brothers?’

49Then he held out his hand towards his disciples and said:

 ‘Look… My mother and my brothers! 50For all those who are doing the will of my Father in the heavens are my brothers, sisters, and mother.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 13

1Then one day, Jesus came out of the house and he was sitting by the sea, 2when a huge crowd came and gathered around him. So, he stepped into a boat and [started teaching] those who were standing there on the beach, 3and he did so using parables… For he said:

 ‘{Look!} A farmer went out to do planting,
 4And some of his seeds fell by the road,
 Where birds quickly came there and ate them.

 5‘Others fell among rocks where there wasn’t much soil,
 Yet, they quickly started to sprout.
 6But when the sun rose, they were scorched,
 And they withered, because they couldn’t spread roots.

 7‘Still others fell among briers,
 Which [quickly] grew and choked them all out.

 8‘Yet the rest fell upon the good soil,
 And there they started producing [much] fruit…
 This one 60, that one 100,
 And just 30 for another…

 9‘Let those who have ears, pay attention!’

10Well later, the disciples came up to him and asked him why he was speaking to the crowd in parables.

11And he replied:

 ‘Although *you’ve* been allowed to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of [God], they haven’t.

 12‘So, those who have will be given more,
 And they’ll have more than enough.
 But, as for those who don’t have…
 Even what they own will be taken from them.

 13‘Therefore, this is why I’m speaking to them in parables; because when they look they can’t see, and when they listen they don’t hear or understand the meaning of it.

 14‘And in this, the prophecy of IsaiAh is being fulfilled in them that says:

 *‘By listening, you’ll hear, but not understand,*
 *And by looking, you’ll look, but not see.*
 15*For the hearts of these people have grown thick;*
 *So their ears now listen very slowly,*
 *And all their eye lids are closed.*
 *So they’re unable to see with their eyes,*
 *And they can’t hear with their ears,*
 *Nor can they understand in their hearts,*
 *Then turn back, so that I can heal them.’*
 [Isaiah 6:9]

 16‘However, your eyes are blest because they can see, as are your ears, because they can hear.

 17‘I tell you the truth: many of the Prophets and righteous men wished to see the things that you’re seeing today… But they didn’t see them. And [they wished] to hear the things that you’re hearing… But they didn’t hear them.

 18‘So now, listen to the [meaning of the] parable of the farmer that planted:

 19‘Whenever someone hears about the Kingdom but doesn’t understand it, the wicked one comes and snatches away whatever has been planted in his heart. This is the one who grew alongside the road.

 20‘As for the one who grew among the rocks; he hears the word and quickly accepts it with joy. 21But because he has no roots, he just lasts a short time… When hard times or persecution come along because of the word, he’s immediately trapped.

 22‘As for the one who grew among the thistles: This one hears the word, but the concerns of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke out the word, so he doesn’t produce any fruit.

 23‘But as for the one who’s planted on good soil: He hears the word, understands it, and actually puts out fruit… This 100, that one 60, and the other 30.’

24Well after that, he gave them another parable. He said:

 ‘The Kingdom of the heavens is much like a man
 Who planted good seeds in his field.
 25But while all his people were sleeping,
 An enemy scattered weed seeds over his wheat.
 26So when the blades started sprouting with fruit,
 The weeds also appeared.

 27‘Then the master’s slaves came and asked him:

 *‘Lord, weren’t those good seeds [that you gave us] to plant?*
 *And if so, then, why are there so many weeds?’*

 28‘And he replied:

 *‘It was an enemy of mine that did this.’*

 ‘So they asked him:

 *‘Then, should we go and pull up [the weeds]?’*

 29‘And he told them:

 *‘No, for as you’re pulling up weeds,*
 *You may also uproot the wheat!*
 *30Let them grow together ‘til the harvest arrives.*
 *Then I’ll tell the reapers to collect the weeds first,*
 *And put them in bundles and burn them;*
 *Then, gather the wheat into my barn.’*

31Thereafter, he told them another parable, saying:

 ‘The Kingdom of the heavens is like mustard seeds
 That a man had planted in his field.
 32Even though it’s [one of] the smallest of seeds;
 It can grow to become the largest of plants…
 [It can grow as large as] a tree
 In whose branches, the birds in the skies can then roost.’

33And he told them another parable:

 ‘The Kingdom of the heavens is like a bit of [yeast]
 That a woman hid within in three scoops of flour…
 So it soon became filled with [the yeast].’

34Jesus said all these things to the crowds in parables. And it’s a fact that if he wasn’t using parables, he wasn’t talking to them. 35This was done so as to fulfill what was spoken through the Prophet, who said:

 *‘With parables, I’ll open my mouth.*
 *And I’ll talk about things that have been hidden*
 *Since the founding of the world.’*
 [Psalm 78:2]

36Then, after dismissing the crowds, he went back into the house. And there his disciples came to him and asked him to explain the parable of the weeds in the field. 37So [Jesus] told them this:

 ‘The one who planted the good seeds is the Son of Man, 38and the field is this system of things.

 ‘The good seeds are the sons of the Kingdom, the weeds are the sons of the wicked one, 39and the enemy who planted them is the Slanderer.

 ‘The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are [God’s] messengers.

 40‘So, just as the weeds are collected and burned in a fire; that’s what will happen at the end of the age. 41The Son of Man will send his messengers to collect all the snares and all the lawless people out of his Kingdom, 42and they’ll be thrown into a flaming furnace, where they’ll cry and grind [their] teeth.

 43‘But after that, the righteous will shine as brightly as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father…

 ‘Let those who have ears pay attention to this!

 44‘For the Kingdom of the heavens is like a treasure that a man found and hid in a field. Then to [get that treasure], he went and sold everything that he had to buy that field.

 45‘The Kingdom of the heavens is also like a traveling merchant who was searching for good pearls; 46And when he found one very valuable pearl, he went away and quickly sold everything that he had to buy it.

 47‘Again, the Kingdom of the heavens [God] is like a net that’s dropped into the sea and collects all sorts [of sea creatures]. 48Then, when it’s full, they haul it onto the beach and sit down to collect the good things, which they throw into baskets, while they toss all the bad things away.

 49‘Yes, that’s how it’ll be at the end of the age… [God’s] messengers will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous, 50and they’ll throw [the wicked] into a flaming furnace, where they’ll cry and grind their teeth.’

51[Then Jesus asked them]:

 ‘Do you understand all these things?’

And they replied:

 ‘We do.’

52So Jesus said:

 ‘Well, this is how all the disciples of the Kingdom of the Heavens will teach… They’ll be like a man –a master of his house– who brings both old and new things out of his stores.’

53Well, after Jesus had finished explaining these parables, he left that area 54and traveled to the place where he was raised, and there he started teaching in their synagogue.

This dumbfounded the people, for they asked:

 ‘Where did this man get such wisdom and powers?’

 55‘Isn’t he the carpenter’s son?’

 ‘Isn’t his mother called Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, JoSeph, Simon, and Judas? 56And his sisters… Aren’t they all with us?’

 ‘Where did he get all these things?’

57So they were stumbled over him.

But Jesus said:

 ‘A Prophet is never treated with dishonor except in the place where he was raised and within his own home.’

58Therefore, he didn’t do many powerful deeds there, because of their lack of faith.

### Matthew

## Chapter 14

1It was around this time that Herod (the ruler over that area) heard about Jesus.

2And he said to his boys:

 ‘This is really John the Immerser. He’s been raised from the dead, and this is why he can do such powerful things!’

3He said this because Herod had arrested John and thrown him in prison due to things that [John had said about] his brother’s (Philip’s) wife.

4For, because John had told him that he had broken the Law by taking her, 5[Herod] wanted to kill him. [Yet, he couldn’t], because he was afraid of the people, since they considered [John] to be a Prophet.

6However, at Herod’s birthday party, the daughter of Herodias [came out and] danced before him, and this pleased Herod so much 7that he promised with an oath to give her anything that she asked.

8So, (with her mother’s coaching) she said:

 ‘Then, give me the head of John the Immerser on a platter!’

9Well, the king was really saddened by this, but because he had given his word (and because of those who were eating at the table with him), [Herod] gave the command 10to have John beheaded in prison. 11Then, when his head was brought in on a platter, he gave it to the young girl, who took it to her mother.

12Well, afterwards, [John’s] disciples went to get his body and buried it, then they reported everything that had happened, to Jesus. 13And when Jesus heard about this, he got into a boat to find a quiet place where he could be alone.

However, the crowds noticed [where he was going] and they followed him on foot from the towns. 14So when he got to that place, he saw a huge crowd of people. And because he felt sorry for them, he went on to heal their sick.

15Then later that evening, [Jesus’] disciples came to him and said:

 ‘This is a very remote place and it’s getting late, so we should send the crowds off into the villages around here so they can buy something to eat!’

16But Jesus said to them:

 ‘They don’t have to go… Why don’t you give them something to eat?’

17And [the disciples] answered:

 ‘But all we have is just five loaves [of bread] and two fish!’

18So Jesus told them:

 ‘Bring them to me.’

19Then he told the crowd to lie down on the grass, and he took the five loaves and two fish, and after looking into the sky, he spoke a blessing, and he started breaking the bread and handing it to the disciples, who then passed it out to the crowd…

20And everyone ate until they were full!

Well, when they picked up the scraps, they found that there were 12 baskets full of leftovers. 21Yet there were about 5,000 men (as well as many women and children) that ate.

22Then [Jesus] dismissed the crowd and he told his disciples to take the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side [of the sea]. 23And after most of the people had left, he went up the mountain to a private spot where he could pray. So, although it was getting dark, he stayed there all alone.

24Meanwhile, the boat [that the Apostles were rowing] had gotten a long way from land. But they’d been fighting the waves, because there was [a strong] wind blowing against them. 25And then, sometime just before sunrise, [Jesus] came to them, walking across the sea.

26Well when they saw him walking on the water, the disciples were terrified and they shouted:

 ‘It’s a vision!’

And they started screaming out of fear.

27But right away, Jesus told them:

 ‘Be brave… Don’t be afraid, it’s me!’

28Then Peter said:

 ‘Lord! If it’s you, then command me to come out to you on top of the water!’

29So [Jesus] said:

 ‘Then come on!’

Well, Peter got out of the boat and started walking across the water towards Jesus. 30But then he got distracted by the windstorm and got frightened… And he started to sink, so he shouted:

 ‘Lord, please save me!’

31Then Jesus immediately reached out his hand and grabbed him, and he said:

 ‘O you with so little faith! Why did you start to doubt?’

32Well, after they both got into the boat, the windstorm subsided, 33and the others in the boat all bowed low before him and said:

 ‘You truly are the Son of The God!’

34Then, after they had finished the crossing, they docked their boat at GenNesaret. 35And there, the people recognized him and sent word throughout the surrounding countryside, so they started bringing all those who weren’t doing well to him… 36They were all begging to just touch the fringes on his clothes.

And all that touched them were made completely well.

### Matthew

## Chapter 15

1It was sometime later that some Pharisees and Scribes came from JeruSalem to see Jesus, and they asked him:

 2‘Why are you allowing your disciples to overstep the traditions of the elders?

 ‘For example, they don’t wash their hands before they eat bread!’

3But [Jesus] said to them:

 ‘Then, why do you overstep the Commands of God with your traditions? 4For God told you to honor your fathers and mothers, and to have those who speak badly to their fathers or mothers put to death!

 5‘Yet you're telling your fathers and mothers that all you might have to give to them is already [dedicated] as a gift [to God]. 6So [what you’re really saying], is that you don’t have to honor your parents at all. And when you do this, you’re voiding the word of God with your traditions.

 7‘You hypocrites! How well IsaiAh prophesied about you, when he said:

 8*‘Although they offer Me praise with their lips,*
 *They’re far away from Me in their hearts!*
 9*So it’s in vain that they come to bow before Me,*
 *Since they’re teaching the ideas and instructions of men.’*
 [Isaiah 29:13]

10Then he called the crowds closer and said to them:

 ‘Listen and understand… 11It isn’t the things that go into a man’s mouth that dirty him, it’s the things that come out of his mouth that pollute him!’

12Well later, the disciples came up to him and said:

 ‘Don’t you know that the Pharisees were stumbled by what you said?’

13But he replied:

 ‘Anything that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be uprooted. 14So just let them go, for they’re blind guides! And if a blind man leads a blind man, they’ll both fall into a pit.’

15Then Peter said:

 ‘Well then; please explain the meaning of that parable to us.’

16And [Jesus] asked:

 ‘Don’t you get the point? 17Don’t you realize that whatever you put into your mouth just goes into your belly and then into the sewer?

 18‘However, the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart… These are the things that dirty a man. 19For out of the heart comes wicked thinking, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, thievery, false testimonies, and blasphemy. 20These are the things that pollute a man! But eating with unwashed hands doesn’t make him dirty.’

21Well, after he left that place, Jesus traveled up into areas of Tyre and Sidon. 22And there {Look!} a Phoenician woman who lived nearby came to him and started shouting:

 ‘Have mercy on me O Lord, son of David; for my daughter is badly demon possessed!’

23Now, [Jesus] didn’t pay any attention to her. But his disciples begged him to [do something], because she kept following them and shouting at them.
24So he said to them:

 ‘I wasn’t sent here to [help] anyone other than just the lost sheep of the house of IsraEl.’

25But then, the woman came up to [Jesus]. She bowed low and said:

 ‘Lord, please help me!’

26And he said to her:

 ‘It isn’t right to take bread from the children and throw it to the puppies.’

27But she replied:

 ‘Yes Lord; but aren’t puppies allowed to eat the crumbs that fall from the tables of their masters?’

28Well at that, Jesus said to her:

 ‘O woman; you have a lot of faith… May it be as you wish.’

And her daughter was healed from that moment on.

29Then, going cross-country from that place, Jesus traveled along the Sea of Galilee. And finally, he climbed a mountain and sat down… 30And large crowds started coming to him, bringing people who were lame, injured, blind, and those who were unable to speak (along with many others).

They almost threw them at his feet, and he cured them all.

31So the crowds were amazed when they saw the speechless talking, the lame walking, and the blind seeing… And they praised the God of IsraEl.

32Well later, Jesus called his disciples to him and said:

 ‘I’m concerned for the crowds, because they’ve stayed with me for three days and they don’t have anything to eat. I certainly don’t want to send them away hungry, because they might give out on the road!’

33However, the disciples asked:

 ‘Where could we get enough bread to satisfy this large a crowd in such a remote location?’

34So Jesus asked them:

 ‘How many loaves do you have?’

And they replied:

 ‘Seven, plus a few little fish.’

35So he told the crowd to recline on the ground. 36Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and after offering thanks, he broke them up and gave them to the disciples, who [distributed them] among the crowd… 37And everyone ate until they were satisfied.

And after they picked up the scraps, they found that they had seven provision baskets full, 38even though there were some 4,000 men, plus women and children, who ate!

39Well, finally, after dismissing the crowd, he got into the boat and they traveled to the area of MagaDan.

### Matthew

## Chapter 16

1This is where the Pharisees and SadDucees came to [Jesus] and tried to tempt him by asking for a sign from heaven.

2~~He answered and said to them:~~

 ~~‘When it’s evening, you say,~~ *~~‘The weather will be fair, for the sky is red.’~~* 3~~Then in the morning,~~ *~~‘It will be bad weather, because the sky is red and overcast.’~~*

 ~~‘Hypocrites! You know how to read the sky, but you can’t read the signs of the times.’~~ [spurious text]

But he said:

 4‘A wicked and adulterous people is always looking for signs.

 ‘However, no sign will be given other than the sign of Jonah [the Prophet].’

Then he just walked away and left them.

5Well, after Jesus and his disciples got to the other side [of the sea], they [realized that they] had forgotten to bring along any bread. 6And when Jesus told them to keep their eyes open and watch out for the fermentation of the Pharisees and SadDucees, 7the disciples started saying to each other:

 ‘Why [did he say this]? Is it because we didn’t bring any bread along?’

8Well, because Jesus knew [what they were thinking], he said:

 ‘You with so little faith! Why are you talking about not having any bread?

 9‘Don’t you get the point… Don’t you remember how many baskets you picked up after [we fed] five thousand [men with just] five loaves; 10or how many provision baskets you picked up after we fed four thousand [men] with just seven loaves?

 11‘Why don’t you understand that I’m not talking about bread… [I’m telling you to] watch out for the fermentation of the Pharisees and SadDucees!’

12Well with that, they [finally] realized that he wasn’t telling them to watch out for fermentation in bread, but for the teachings of the Pharisees and SadDucees.

13Thereafter, he traveled on to Caesarea Philippi, and there Jesus asked his disciples:

 ‘Who are people saying that the Son of Man is?’

14So they told him:

 ‘Some say you’re John the Immerser, others EliJah, and still others are saying that you’re JeremiAh or one of the Prophets.’

15Then he asked them:

 ‘But, whom do you say that I am?’

16And Simon Peter answered:

 ‘You’re the Anointed One, the Son of the Living God.’

17So Jesus said to him:

 ‘You are blest, Simon son of Jonah, because this wasn’t shown to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in the heavens.

 18‘I also tell you this:

 ‘Just as you’re Peter [meaning, Rock], I’ll build my congregation on this bedrock so that the gates of the place of the dead won’t overpower it.

 19‘I’ll also give you the keys to the Kingdom of the heavens, so that whatever you bind on earth will be bound in the heavens, and whatever you set free on the earth will be set free in the heavens.’

20Then he sternly warned the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Anointed One. 21And that’s when Jesus (the Anointed) started showing his disciples that he would have to go to JeruSalem and suffer many things at [the hands of] the elders, Chief Priests, and Scribes… And although he would be killed, [he would thereafter be] raised on the 3rd day.

22But at that, Peter took him aside and started scolding him, saying:

 ‘Be kind to yourself Lord; this isn’t going to happen to you!’

23However [Jesus] turned to Peter and said:

 ‘Get behind me opposer! You’re a trap to me, because you aren’t thinking God’s thoughts, but those of men.’

24Then Jesus said this to his disciples:

 ‘If anyone wants to follow me, he’ll have to deny his own needs, then pick up his impaling pole and travel behind me.

 25‘For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

 26‘So, what good would it do for a man to gain the whole world, if he just loses his life? And what will a man give [to save] his own life?

 27‘Well, the Son of Man is about to come into the glory of his Father and of His messengers, and then he’ll repay each person for the things that he’s done. 28Yet, I tell you the truth when I say that some of you standing here won’t taste death at all until you see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 17

1Well, it was just six days later that Jesus took Peter, James, and John (the brother of James) to a private spot on a high mountain, 2where he changed form in front of them! His face became as bright as the sun, and his clothes became as white as light! 3And {Look!} they saw Moses and EliJah speaking to [Jesus]!

4So Peter said to Jesus:

 ‘Lord, it’s good for us to be here… And if you want, I’ll put up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for EliJah.’

5But just as he said this, {Look!} a bright cloud covered them and {Look!} a voice came out of the cloud that said:

 ‘This is my beloved Son whom I have approved… Listen to him!’

6Well when they heard that, the disciples were frightened and they fell to their faces. 7But Jesus went over to them and touched them, and said:

 ‘Get up; don’t be afraid.’

8Then when they looked up, they saw just Jesus all by himself.

9Well, as they were walking down the mountain, Jesus gave them this warning, he said:

 ‘Don’t tell anyone what you saw here until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

10Then sometime later, the disciples asked him:

 ‘Why do the Scribes say that EliJah must come first?’

11And Jesus told them:

 ‘EliJah does indeed come and he restores everything. 12However, I tell you that EliJah has already come and they didn’t recognize him. So they did whatever they wanted to him… And this is the same way that the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands!’

13Well, it was then that the disciples finally realized that he was talking to them about John the Immerser.

14And as they were approaching a crowd, a man came up to Jesus, then he kneeled down, and said:

 15‘Lord, please show mercy on my son! He gets loony and he often falls into the fire or into the water. 16Even though I brought him to your disciples, they haven’t been able to cure him!’

17It was then that Jesus said:

 ‘O [what a] faithless and twisted people! How much longer must I be with you? How much longer will I have to put up with you?

 ‘Bring him here to me!’

18So Jesus thereafter scolded the demon and it came out, and the boy was cured from that moment on.

19Then the disciples came to Jesus while he was alone and asked:

 ‘Why couldn’t we cast it out?’

20And he replied:

 ‘Because of your lack of faith!

 ‘I tell you the truth: If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, *Move from here to there*, and it would go… Nothing would be impossible for you!’

 21~~‘However, this kind won’t go out except by prayer and fasting.’~~ [spurious words]

22Then, while they were all gathered in Galilee, Jesus said to them:

 ‘The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men 23who will kill him… But he will be raised on the 3rd day.’

And this made them all very sad.

24Well, after they arrived in CapharNaum, the men who collected the double-silver [tax] came up to Peter and asked:

 ‘Doesn’t your teacher pay the double-silver [tax]?’

25And he replied:

 ‘Yes he does.’

Then, after he went back into the house, Jesus was already ahead of him and he asked [Peter]:

 ‘What do you think, Simon; from whom do the kings of the earth get their duties and head taxes… From their sons, or from strangers?’

26And [Peter] answered:

 ‘From strangers.’

Then Jesus said:

 ‘So, the sons are really tax-free, aren’t they?

 27‘But because we don’t want to stumble them, go over to the sea and cast out a hook, then take the first fish that you catch. And when you open its mouth, you’ll find a coin.

 ‘Take [the coin] and give it to them for both you and me.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 18

1It was less than an hour later that the disciples came up to Jesus and asked:

 ‘Which [of us] will be the greatest in the Kingdom of the heavens (or, of God)?’

2So [Jesus] called a little boy over and stood him in their midst, and said:

 3‘I tell you the truth: Unless you change your ways and become like this little boy, you won’t get into the Kingdom of the heavens!

 4‘But the one who humbles himself like this little boy will be the greatest in the Kingdom of the heavens. 5And whoever welcomes someone like this little boy in my name, welcomes me.

 6‘But if anyone sets a snare before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for him to have the type of millstone that’s turned by a burro hung around his neck, and then to be dropped into the open sea!

 7‘Woe to this system of things because of its snares!

 ‘Of course, there’ll always be snares… But woe to the man who sets them!

 8‘So if your hand or foot is a snare to you, cut it off and throw it away. For it’s better to enter life maimed or lame than to be thrown into the age-long fire with two hands or two feet.

 9‘Also, if your eye is a snare to you, rip it out and throw it away. For it’s better to enter life with one eye than to be thrown with two eyes into the fires of the garbage dump.

 10‘This is why you should never disregard any of these little ones!

 ‘For I tell you: Their messengers in the heavens gaze upon the face of my Father in the heavens!’

 11~~‘For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost.~~ [spurious text, copied from Luke 19:10]

 12‘What do you think? If a man has 100 sheep, but one of them strays, won’t he leave the 99 and search ~~in the mountains~~ for the one who’s strayed?

 13‘Then, if he happens to find it, I tell you, he’ll be happier over that one than over the 99 that didn’t stray!

 14‘So it is with my Father in the heavens… He doesn’t want even one of these little ones to perish. 15Therefore, if your brother should fail in some way, take him aside and discuss it between you and him alone; then if he listens to you, you’ll have won over your brother.

 16‘But if he doesn’t listen, you should bring along one or two others, so that whatever is said [by him] can be proven by the mouths of two or three witnesses. 17However, if he refuses to listen even to them, you should speak to the congregation. And if he refuses to listen to even the congregation, let him become as a gentile or as a tax collector among you.

 18‘I tell you the truth: everything that you bind on the earth will be bound in the heavens, and everything that you set free on the earth will be set free in the heavens.

 19‘Again, I truthfully say: If two of you agree to anything on this earth that you must request, it’ll happen because of my Father in heaven. 20For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I’ll be there among them.’

21Then Peter came up to him and asked:

 ‘Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me… Up to seven times?’

22But Jesus replied:

 ‘I tell you; not up to seven times, but up to seventy-seven times!

 23‘To illustrate:

 ‘The Kingdom of [God] is like a man, a king, who wanted to settle some accounts with his slaves. 24So he started by bringing in a man who owed him 10,000 large silver coins. 25And because he couldn’t repay it, the master ordered that he, his wife, his children, and everything that he owned was to be sold to make the payment.

 26‘However, the slave fell down with his face to the ground before [the master] and begged:

 *‘Be patient with me and I’ll pay back everything that I owe you!’*

 27‘Well, [the king] was moved to pity at this, so he forgave him and freed him from his entire debt.

 28‘But shortly thereafter, the slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves that owed him just 100 small coins, and he grabbed him and started choking him, saying:

 *‘Pay back everything that you owe me!’*

 29‘Then his fellow slave fell down and started begging him, saying:

 *‘Be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back!’*

 30‘However, [the first slave] had the man locked up until he could pay everything that he was owed.

 31‘Well, when all the other slaves saw this they became very upset, so they went and told their master what had happened. 32Then the master summoned him and said this:

 *‘Wicked slave! I canceled all that debt for you because you begged me.* 33*So, why didn’t you see the need to show the same type of mercy for your fellow slave that I had shown to you?’*

 34‘And the master became so furious that he had him taken off to jail until he could repay all that he owed.

 35‘Now, this is how my heavenly Father will deal with you if you don’t forgive your brothers from your hearts.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 19

1Well after Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and traveled to the Judean border across the JorDan River, 2and because huge crowds followed along, he cured them there.

3However, the Pharisees came to test him, asking:

 ‘Is it legal for a man to divorce his woman on any grounds?’

4And [Jesus] replied:

 ‘You’ve read that the One who created them long ago made them male and female 5and said:

 *‘This is why a man will leave his father and mother and join to his woman, making the two one flesh.’* [Genesis 2:24]

 6‘So they’re no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, no man should split apart what The God has yoked together!’

7And they said:

 ‘Then, why did Moses say that we could give them divorce certificates and dismiss them?’

8And he replied:

 ‘Moses realized how hardhearted you would be, so he allowed you to release your women… But that hasn’t always been the way!

 9‘I tell you that whoever divorces his woman except on the grounds of sexual immorality and marries another, is an adulterer!

 ‘And whoever marries a released woman is an adulterer.’

10Then [one of] his disciples said:

 ‘If this is true of a man and his woman, then it’s probably best not to marry at all!’

11And Jesus said:

 ‘Yes, but this is something that not every man can do… Just those who have the gift. 12For there are eunuchs that were born that way, eunuchs that were made that way by men, and those who have made themselves eunuchs for the Kingdom of [God].

 ‘So let those who can make room for it, make room for it!’

13Well after that, [people] started bringing their young children to him so that he could lay his hands on them and offer a prayer, but the disciples started scolding them.

14However, Jesus told them:

 ‘Leave the children alone and don’t stop them from coming to me, because the Kingdom of [God] is for people just like this!’ [frequently mistranslated]

15And after he laid his hands on them, he traveled on.

16Then later, {Look!} someone came up to [Jesus] and asked:

 ‘Teacher, what sort of good things must I do in order to receive age-long life?’

17And [Jesus] replied:

 ‘Why are you asking me about doing what’s good? There’s just One who is truly good… But if you want to enter into the life, just follow the Commandments!’

18Then [the man] asked:

 ‘Which ones?’

And Jesus replied:

 ‘You must not murder, you must not commit adultery, you must not steal, you must not testify falsely, 19you must honor [your] father and mother, and you must love your neighbor as yourself.’

20And the young man said to him:

 ‘Well, I’ve kept all these things… So what else am I lacking?’

21And Jesus said to him:

 ‘If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your belongings and give to the poor, then come follow me and you’ll have treasures in the heavens.’

22However, after the young man heard this, he left very sad, because he owned many things.

23So then Jesus said to his disciples:

 ‘I tell you the truth: It’ll be difficult for a rich man to get into the Kingdom of [God]. 24Let me put it this way… It would be easier [to thread] a rope through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into the Kingdom of God.’

25Well, the disciples were very surprised at hearing this, and they asked:

 ‘Then, who can really be saved?’

26And looking them straight in their faces, Jesus said:

 ‘With men, this is an impossibility. However, all things are possible with God.’

27But then Peter said to him:

 ‘{Look} Since we’ve left everything to follow you, what will we really get?’

28And Jesus replied:

 ‘I tell you the truth: In the rebirth – when the Son of Man sits down on his glorious throne – you who’ve followed me will sit on 12 thrones and you’ll judge the 12 tribes of IsraEl.

 29‘Also, anyone who has left a house, or his brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or land for the sake of my name will receive many times more, and he will inherit age-long life.

 30‘Yet, many that are the first will be the last, and the last will be the first.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 20

 1‘For the Kingdom of the heavens is like a man, the master of his house, who went out very early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. 2And when they agreed on a payment of one silver coin per day, he sent them out to work in his field.

 3‘However, he thereafter went out again (about the 3rd hour [9am]) and noticed others that were standing in the marketplace looking for work, 4and he said:

 *‘You go into the vineyard also, and I’ll pay you whatever is fair.’*

 5‘So off they went.

 ‘Then he went out again about the 6th and the 9th hours [12 noon and 3pm] and he did the same thing.

 ‘6Finally, about the 11th hour [5pm], he went out and found more workers standing around, and he asked them:

 *‘Why have you been standing here all day long unemployed?’*

 7‘And they said:

 *‘Because nobody has hired us!’*

 ‘So, he said to them:

 *‘Then you go into my vineyard too.’*

 8‘Well, later that evening, the master of the vineyard told the man in charge to call in all the workers and pay them their wages… And he told him to pay the last ones first.

 9‘So [after] the 11th hour [5pm], the men came in and he started paying each of them a silver coin. 10However, when it came time [to pay] the first, these figured that they’d be getting more… Yet they were also paid a [single] silver coin.

 11‘And as they were receiving it, they started complaining about the master, saying:

 12*‘Even though these last ones just put in only one hour’s work, he paid them the same as those of us that worked all day long in the burning heat!’*

 13‘But in reply to one of them, [the master] said:

 *‘Man, I haven’t done you any wrong! Didn’t we agree on one silver coin?* 14*Take what is yours and go. I paid the last ones the same as you, because I want to!* 15*And isn’t it legal for me to do whatever I wish with my own things? Are you viewing me as wicked because I’ve done something good?’*

 16‘So understand this:

 ‘The last will be the first and the first will be the last.’ ~~For many are called, but few chosen.~~ [spurious words, copied from Matthew 22:14]

17Then, as they were starting down the road to JeruSalem, Jesus took the 12 disciples off privately and explained this to them… He said:

 18‘{Look!} We’re heading up to JeruSalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the Chief Priests and Scribes, and they’ll condemn him to death. 19Then they’ll hand him over to the gentiles, who will make fun of him, whip him, and impale him… But on the third day he will be raised!’

20Well sometime later, the mother of the sons of ZebediOu came up to him with her [two] sons, and she bowed low as if to request something.

21So he asked her:

 ‘What is it that you want?’

And she said:

 ‘[Promise me] that my two sons will sit, one at your right hand and one on your left, in your Kingdom.’

22But Jesus replied:

 ‘You don’t really know what you’re asking… Can they drink from the same cup that I’ll be drinking?’

And [her sons] answered:

 ‘Yes we can!’

23So he said to them:

 ‘You will indeed drink from my same cup! But sitting on my right and left isn’t mine to give… It belongs to those for whom my Father has prepared it.’

24Well when the 10 other [disciples] heard what the brothers had done, they became very angry with them. 25However, Jesus called them all to him and said this:

 ‘You know how the rulers of the nations like to be masters over [the people] and keep them under their feet… 26But you shouldn’t be like that! Rather, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, 27and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave.

 28‘For this is how the Son of Man came… Not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.’

29Then, as they were leaving JeriCho with a large crowd following them, 30{Look!} there were two blind men sitting alongside the road who heard that Jesus was passing by.

So they shouted:

 ‘Lord… Have mercy on us, Son of David!’

31But even though the crowd told them to be quiet, they shouted even louder:

 ‘Lord… Have mercy on us, Son of David!’

32So Jesus stopped and called them over, and asked:

 ‘What do you want me to do for you?’

33And they replied:

 ‘Lord, we want you to open our eyes!’

34Then, moved with pity, Jesus touched their eyes, and immediately they were able to see… And they started following him.

### Matthew

## Chapter 21

1Well, when they got close to JeruSalem and arrived at BethPhage (on the Mount of Olives), Jesus sent two disciples ahead, 2telling them:

 ‘Go into the village that’s across from us, and you’ll immediately find a burro that’s tied next to its colt. Untie them and bring them here to me.

 3‘If anyone asks you about it, just tell him that the Lord needs them, and he’ll send them with you.’

4Of course, the reason why this happened is so that the thing spoken through the Prophet might be fulfilled:

 5*‘Say this to the daughter of Zion:*
 *Look! Your King is coming to you!*
 *[He’s] gentle and comes riding the colt of a burro…*
 *The foal of a creature that bears heavy loads.’*
 [Zechariah 9:9]

6So the disciples went and did just as Jesus told them. 7They brought the burro and its colt to him, then they put their robes [over its back] for him to sit on. 8Also, many in the crowd spread their robes out on the road ahead of him, while others cut branches from trees and spread them out on the road.

9So, part of the crowd walked ahead of him, while the rest followed behind him shouting:

 ‘[God] save the Son of David!
 Praise the one who comes in the Name of Jehovah…
 Save, we pray, from the heights!’

10Well, as he was entering JeruSalem, this caused quite a stir throughout the city, [for people were asking]:

 ‘Who is this?’

11And the crowd [that was with Jesus] replied:

 ‘This is Jesus, the Prophet from Nazareth of Galilee!’

12Well from there, Jesus entered the Temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling. He also overturned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those who were selling doves, 13saying to them:

 ‘It is written:

 *‘My house will be called a house of prayer...’*

 ‘But, you’re turning it into a den of thieves!’

14And after that, people who were blind and lame started coming to him in the Temple, and he cured them.

15But when the Chief Priests and Scribes saw the wonderful things that he was doing and they heard all the children shouting in the Temple, ‘[God] save the Son of David,’ they became very upset.

16So they said to him:

 ‘Don’t you hear what they’re shouting?’

And Jesus replied:

 ‘Yes… Haven’t you ever read this:

 *‘From the mouths of infants and babies*
 *You have ordered up praises.’*
 [Psalm 8:2]

17And with that, he left them… He walked out of the city and went to BethAny, where he spent the night.

18Well, while he was on the way back to the city early the next morning, he was hungry. 19So he walked over to a fig tree that was growing alongside the road, but found nothing on it but leaves, so he said:

 ‘Let no fruit come from you anymore throughout the rest of the age.’

And the fig tree withered instantly.

20Then when the disciples saw this, they wondered:

 ‘How can a fig tree wither instantly?’

21And Jesus said:

 ‘I tell you the truth: If you have faith (and you must not doubt), not only will you be able to do what I did to this fig tree, but you could say to this mountain, *Lift up and be thrown into the sea*, and it’ll happen… 22You’ll receive anything you ask for in prayer if you have faith.’

23Then after he’d entered the Temple and started teaching, the Chief Priests and the peoples’ elders came up to him and asked:

 ‘Who authorized you to do these things… Who said that you could do this?’

24In reply, Jesus said:

 ‘Let me ask you something, and if you answer me, I’ll tell you who authorized me to do these things...

 25‘What was the source of John’s immersing? Did it come from heaven or from men?’

So they started reasoning among themselves and saying to each other:

 ‘If we say *from heaven*, he will ask us, *Then why didn’t you believe him?* 26But if we say *from men*, we’ll have to deal with the crowd, because they think John was a Prophet.’
27So they told Jesus:

 ‘We don’t know.’

And he told them:

 ‘Then I’m not going to tell you where I got the authority to do the things that I’m doing.

 28‘What do you think?

 ‘There was once a man who had two children. He went to the first one and said:

 *‘Son, I want you to work in the vineyard today.’*

 29‘This one answered:

 *‘Yes sir!’*

 ‘But he didn’t [do it].

 30‘Then [the man] went to the second son and said the same thing. And he replied:

 *‘I don’t want to…’*

 ‘But later, he felt sorry and he did go [to work in the vineyard].

 31‘So, which of the two did what their father wanted?’

And they replied:

 ‘The second one.’

Then Jesus said to them:

 ‘I tell you the truth; tax collectors and whores will go ahead of you into the Kingdom of God, 32because John came to you [preaching] the ways of righteousness, but you didn’t believe him.

 ‘However, tax collectors and whores believed him! And although you saw this, you didn’t feel sorry later and put faith in what he was saying.

 33‘Listen to another parable:

 ‘There was a man – the master of his house – who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, built a tower [to protect it], and hired [people to] cultivate it before he traveled abroad.

 34‘Then when the [harvest] season arrived, he sent his servants to the farm hands to collect the fruit.

 35‘However, those farm hands took his slaves and beat the first one up, threw stones at the second, and killed the third one.

 36‘So he then sent other slaves to them (more than the first)… But they did the same things to these.

 37‘Finally, he sent his son to them, saying:

 *‘They’ll show respect for my son!’*

 38‘But when they saw the son, the farmers said:

 *‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him and get his inheritance!’*

 39‘So they grabbed him and threw him out of the vineyard, then they killed him.’

 40‘Now, when the owner of the vineyard returns, what do you think he will do to those farm hands?’

41And they replied:

 ‘Because they’re so bad, he will destroy them in a painful way, then he’ll hire others who’ll cultivate the vineyard and give him the fruit when it’s due.’

42And Jesus said to them:

 ‘Haven’t you ever read in the Scriptures:

 *‘The stone that the builders rejected*
 *Has become the foundation cornerstone…*
 *By Jehovah this was done,*
 *And this is a wonderful thing in our eyes?’*
 [Psalm 118:22]

 43‘This is why I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that produces its fruit. 44For the person who falls on this ‘stone’ will be shattered, and anyone it falls on will be smashed into dust!’

45Well, after the Chief Priests and the Pharisees heard these parables, they realized that he was talking about them. 46Yet, although they were looking to grab him, they didn’t, because they were afraid of the crowds, since [the people] viewed him as a Prophet.

### Matthew

## Chapter 22

1Then Jesus gave them another parable. He said:

 2‘The Kingdom of the heavens [or, of God] is like a man… A king, that arranged a wedding banquet for his son. 3And thereafter, he sent his slaves out to call all those whom he wished to invite.

 ‘However, none of the people wanted to come.

 4‘So then he sent other slaves, giving them these instructions:

 *‘Tell those whom I invited that {Look!} the banquet is ready… Bulls and fattened animals have been slaughtered, and everything is prepared, so they should come to the feast!’*

 5‘However, none of them paid any attention. One went out to his field, another to his business, 6and the rest grabbed his slaves, abused them, and then killed them.

 7‘Of course, this sent the king into a rage!

 ‘So he sent his army to destroy those murderers and to burn their city.

 8‘And after he did that, he said to his slaves:

 *‘The marriage feast is indeed ready, but those whom I invited were unworthy.* 9*So, go out to the roads that lead into the city and invite everyone you can find to my wedding banquet!’*

 10‘Therefore, the slaves went out to the roads and they gathered everyone they could find (both the wicked and the good), and the banquet hall was soon filled with people reclining at the tables.

 11‘But then, when the king came in to inspect the guests, he noticed a man who wasn’t properly dressed for a wedding celebration.

 12‘So he asked him:

 *‘How did you get in here [dressed like that]?’*

 ‘Well, the man was speechless.

 13‘Then the king said to his servants:

 *‘Tie him hand and foot and throw him into the darkness outside, where he can cry and grind his teeth!’*

 14‘For, many are called, but few are chosen.’

15Well, after he said that, the Pharisees all went off and held a meeting [to discuss ways to] catch [Jesus] in something that he might say. 16So they sent some of their disciples along with some of the followers of Herod to ask him this:

 ‘Teacher, we know that you tell the truth and what you teach about the way of God is right.

 ‘We also know that you aren’t overly impressed by anyone, because you don’t look at what a person seems to be on the outside. 17So, tell us what you think:

 ‘Is it right for us to pay Caesar’s head tax, or not?’

18But Jesus (knowing their wickedness) said to them:

 ‘Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? 19Show me the coin that you use to pay the head tax.’

So they brought him a silver coin, 20and he asked them:

 ‘Whose image and inscription is on this?’

21And they replied:

 ‘Caesar’s.’

Then he said to them:

 ‘Pay Caesar’s things to Caesar, but God’s things to God.’

22Well when they heard that, they were bewildered. So they left him and went away.

23Then on that same day, the SadDucees (who don’t believe in the resurrection) approached [Jesus] and asked him this:

 24‘Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies without having children, his brother must take his woman and sire [children] for his brother.

 25‘So now, let’s say there were seven brothers.

 ‘The first one married and died without having [children], leaving his woman to his brother.

 26‘Then the same thing happened to the second and to the third, until [she had gone] through all seven.

 27‘Finally the woman died.

 28‘So, to which of the seven will she be married in the resurrection, since they all had her?’

29And Jesus replied:

 ‘This is why you’re headed in the wrong direction… For you don’t understand the Scriptures or the power of God.

 30‘In the resurrection, they won’t marry or be given in marriage, for they’ll be like the angels in the heavens.

 31‘Also, haven’t you read what God told you about the resurrection of the dead [when he said]:

 32*‘I am the God of AbraHam, the God of IsaAc, and the God of Jacob?’*

 ‘He isn’t the God of the dead, but of the living!’

33Well when the crowds heard that, they were amazed by his [way of] teaching.

34Then after the Pharisees heard how he had muzzled the SadDucees, they all came up to him as a group. 35And one of them that was well-versed in the Law asked (to test him):

 36‘Teacher, which is the greatest Commandment of the Law?’

37And Jesus replied:

 ‘*You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart, soul, and mind.’*

 38‘This is the first and the greatest Commandment.

 39‘The second, which is like it, is this:

 *‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’*

 40‘These two commandments are the basis of the whole Law and all the [words of the] Prophets.’

41Then as all the Pharisees were still there in front of him, Jesus asked them:

 42‘What do you believe about the Anointed One… Whose son is he to be?’

And they replied:

 ‘David’s.’

43So he said:

 ‘Then why did David, through the Breath [of God], call him his Lord, when he said:

 44*‘Jehovah said this to* ***my lord****:*

 *‘Sit here at my right hand,*
 *‘Til I set your enemies as a stool for your feet?’*
 [Psalm 110:1]

 45‘So if David called him ‘Lord,’ how could he be his son?’

46Well, nobody was able to say even a word in reply, nor did anyone dare to ask him any more questions from that day on.

### Matthew

## Chapter 23

1Then Jesus spoke to the crowd and to his disciples, and said this:

 2‘Since the Scribes and Pharisees have put themselves in the seat of Moses, 3you should do whatever they tell you to do… Yes, do and pay attention! But don’t do as they do, because they like to talk, but they don’t [practice what they preach].

 4‘Rather, they bundle heavy loads to lay on men’s shoulders, which they’re personally unwilling to try to lift with even a finger, 5since everything that they do is done just to be seen by men.

 ‘They broaden the [scripture-carrying] cases they wear, they make the fringes [on their clothes] a bit longer, 6they like the first places at meals and the front seats in the synagogues, 7and they enjoy being greeted in the markets and having people call them Rabbi.

 8‘But not you!

 ‘Don’t [have people] call you rabbi, for you only have one teacher, while you’re all just brothers.

 9‘Nor should you address anyone on this earth as *Father*, because there’s just One who’s your Father, the Heavenly One.

 10‘Don’t even be called leaders, because you only have one Leader, the Anointed One.

 11‘Rather, the greatest among you must be your servant. 12For those who promote themselves will be humbled, while those who humble themselves will be promoted.

 13‘Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees – you hypocrites – for you’re blocking the way into the Kingdom of the heavens.

 ‘You don’t enter it, and you don’t allow the rest that are on their way to enter it!

 14~~‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer. Therefore, you shall receive the greater damnation.~~ [spurious words, copied from Luke 20:47]

 15‘So, woe to you Scribes and Pharisees – you hypocrites – because you travel land and sea to make a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of the garbage dump as yourselves!

 16‘And woe to you blind guides that say:

 *‘If someone swears an oath by the Temple, it doesn’t mean anything.*
 *But if he swears by the gold in the Temple, the oath is binding.’*

 17‘Morons and blind men!

 ‘Which is really greater… The gold, or the Temple that makes the gold holy?

 18‘You also say:

 *‘If someone swears an oath by the Altar, it doesn’t mean anything; but if anyone swears by the gift on [the Altar], the oath is binding.’*

 19‘Blind men!

 ‘Which is really greater… The gift, or the Altar that makes the gift holy? 20Those who swear an oath by the Altar are not only swearing by it, but also by everything that’s on it.

 21‘Also, those who swear an oath by the Temple are swearing by the One who dwells there, 22and those who swear an oath by heaven are swearing by the throne of God and by the One who’s sitting upon it!

 23‘Yes, woe to you Scribes and Pharisees – hypocrites – for even though you contribute even 1/10th of your mint, dill, and cumin, you ignore the deeper things of the Law, like justice, mercy, and faith!

 ‘Yes, you should do those things also… In addition to the rest. 24[However, you’re just] blind guides that strain out weevils as you gulp down camels!

 25‘Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees – hypocrites – because you wash the outsides of cups and dishes that are still filled with theft and excesses on the insides.

 26‘Blind Pharisees: first clean the insides of the cups and dishes, so that the outsides can also be clean!

 27‘Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees – hypocrites – because you’re like whitewashed graves that look beautiful on the outside, but you’re full of dead men’s bones and every sort of filth on the inside…

 28‘You look like righteous men on the outside, but on the inside, you’re full of hypocrisy and lawlessness!

 29‘Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees – hypocrites – because you build tombs to dead Prophets… Yes, you decorate the tombs of the righteous and say:

 30*‘If we had lived back in the days of our forefathers, we wouldn’t have shared in [spilling] the blood of the Prophets!’*

 31‘But when you say this, you’re testifying against yourselves that you’re the sons of those who murdered the Prophets! 32And now [it’s time] for you to fully measure up to [the badness of] your ancestors!

 33‘Yes, you snakes and children of vipers! How can you escape the judgment of the garbage dump?

 34‘Look! I’ll be sending you Prophets, wise men, and writers, whom you’ll kill… You’ll hang some on poles, and you’ll whip others in your synagogues and chase them down in one city after another.

 35‘And that’s when you’ll become responsible for all the righteous blood that has been spilled on the earth from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of ZechariAh (son of BarachiAh), whom you murdered between the Holy Place and the Altar.

 36‘Yes, I’m telling the truth when I say that all of this [guilt] will be laid upon this people!

 37‘O JeruSalem, JeruSalem…

 ‘You killer of Prophets and stoner of those who were sent to you!

 ‘How often I’ve wanted to gather your children the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings… But you didn’t want that!

 38‘So look… Your house has been taken from you!

 39‘I tell you the truth: You won’t see me again until you say:

 *‘Praise the one who comes in Jehovah’s Name!’*

### Matthew

## Chapter 24

1Well, after Jesus had left the Temple, his disciples came up to him and were pointing admiringly towards its buildings.

2So he said to them:

 ‘Do you see all these things?

 ‘I tell you the truth: there won’t be a stone left on top of a stone here that won’t be thrown down.’

3Then, as he was sitting in a quiet spot on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came up to him and asked:

 ‘Tell us when these things will happen. What will be the sign?’ ~~of your coming and the end of the world?~~ [Possibly spurious words]

4And Jesus replied:

 ‘Watch out so that no one misleads you; 5for many will come in my name, saying, *‘I am the Anointed’*, and they’ll mislead many.

 6‘You’ll also hear of wars and reports of wars, but don’t let that frighten you, for these things must happen too… But that isn't the end. 7Yes, nations will be rising against nations and kingdoms against kingdoms, and there’ll be famines and great shakings in many places… 8Yet, these will just be the beginnings of the birth pangs.

 9‘Then people will hand you over to be persecuted and killed… You’ll be hated by all the nations on account of my name. 10And because many will be stumbled, they’ll dislike each other and they’ll even betray each other!

 11‘There’ll also be false prophets that will arise and mislead many; 12and because of the increasing of lawlessness, the love of the majority will grow cold.

 13‘However, those who endure to the end will be saved.

 14‘For this good news of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole habitation of mankind as a testimony to all the nations before the end arrives.

 15‘So when you see the disgusting destroyer that was spoken of through the Prophet DaniEl standing in the Holy Place (let the reader pay attention to this), 16those [living] in Judea should flee to the mountains!

 17‘The man who’s standing on his roof shouldn’t go down to remove things from his house, 18and the man who’s standing in his field shouldn’t [go back home] to get his clothes.

 19‘Also, woe to those who are pregnant and those who are nursing babies in those days… 20They should keep praying that their time to run doesn’t arrive in the winter or on a Sabbath!

 21‘For a difficult time will then arrive that will be unlike anything that has happened since the beginning of this arrangement until now, nor should ever happen again!

 22‘And if those days weren’t going to be shortened, no flesh could be saved… But for the sake of the elected, those days will be shortened.

 23‘Then if anyone should say:

 *‘Look! [He’s] here!’*

 ‘Or:

 *‘There! It’s the Anointed One!’*

 ‘Don’t believe it! 24Because, false anointed [ones] and false prophets will arise. They’ll perform such great omens and signs that they could possibly mislead even the elected!

 25‘Now, I’ve warned you!

 26‘So if people should say:

 *‘Look! He’s in the desert!’*

 ‘...you shouldn’t go there. Or [if they say]:

 *‘Look, He’s in that barn!’*

 ‘...you shouldn’t believe it [either].

 27‘For as lightning flashes across the skies from the east to the west, that’s how you’ll know that the Son of Man is nearby… 28[Just] like when vultures gather at a carcass.

 29‘Then immediately after that difficult time:

 *‘The sun will grow dark,*
 *The moon won’t give out its light,*
 *The stars will fall from the skies,*
 *And the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’*
 [Isaiah 13:10]

 30‘Thereafter, the Son of Man’s sign will appear in the skies, and all the tribes of the land will beat themselves in grief as they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds in the sky with great power and glory.

 31‘For He will send his messengers [blowing] loud trumpets that will then collect his elected from the four winds… From one end of the skies to the other.

 32‘Now, learn this from the story of the fig tree:

 *‘When its young branches grow tender*
 *And it starts putting out leaves,*
 *You know that summer is near.’*

 33‘So when you see these [things start to happen], know that it’s near… At the doors!

 34‘I tell you the truth: This people won’t pass away until these things have all been fulfilled. 35Although the skies and the lands may all pass away, my words won’t pass away!

 36‘Yet, no one knows the date and time, not the angels in the heavens or the Son… Just the Father. 37For as it was in the days of Noah is how it’ll be at the arrival of the Son of Man.

 38‘Back in the days that led up to the Downpour, the people were all eating and drinking, getting married and being taken in marriage, right up to the very day that Noah entered the Chest. 39Yes, they were unaware until the Downpour came and swept them all away!

 ‘And that’s how it’ll be when the Son of Man arrives.

 40‘Then, where there are two men in a field, one will be taken along while the other is abandoned. 41Also, where two ~~women~~ are grinding [grain] at one mill; one will be taken along, while the other will be abandoned.

 42‘So [you should all] stay awake, since you don’t know the day that your Lord will arrive.

 43‘I want you to recognize this:

 ‘If the master of the house had known in which watch the thief would be coming, he would have stayed awake and not allowed his house to be [broken into].

 ‘44So always prove yourselves ready; for the Son of Man will arrive at a time that he isn’t expected.

 45‘Who is the faithful and sensible slave that the master has put in charge of his household to provide them their food at the right times? 46That slave will be blest if he’s found doing this when his master arrives… 47I tell you the truth; he’ll put him in charge of everything that he owns!

 48‘However, if that bad slave should ever say in his heart:

 *‘My master is late in arriving...’*

 49‘...and then he starts beating his fellow slaves and eating and drinking with the drunks... 50That slave’s master will arrive on a date and time that he isn’t expected, 51and he will cut him down and assign him among hypocrites, where he’ll weep and grind his teeth.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 25

 1‘For the Kingdom of the heavens is like ten virgins that took their lamps and went out to meet the groom and his bride. 2Five of them were wise, but [the other] five just didn’t care. 3For although they brought their lamps, they didn’t bring any oil, 4while the wise brought jars of oil for their lamps.

 5‘Well, as the bridegroom was taking his time, they all nodded off and went to sleep. 6But in the middle of the night, someone shouted:

 *‘Look, it’s the groom [and his bride]… Let’s go out and meet them!’*

 7‘So thereafter, all the [wise] virgins got up and started preparing their lamps.

 8‘However, those who didn’t care then said to the wise:

 *‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are about to go out!’*

 9‘But the wise replied:

 *‘There probably isn’t enough for us all, so you’d best go to the store to buy your own.’*

 10‘Well, the [bride and] groom happened to arrive just as these ones were leaving. So those who were ready entered the wedding banquet along with him… And then the door was closed.

 11‘Well later on, the other virgins finally showed up and they shouted:

 *‘Lord! Lord! Open to us!’*

 12‘But he said to them:

 *‘I tell you the truth: I don’t know you!’*

 13‘So, this is why you must stay awake… For you don’t know the date and time!

 14‘It’s [the same] as when a man who was about to travel abroad called for his slaves to entrust his belongings to them.

 15‘To one he gave five [silver] coins, to another he gave two, and to another he gave just one (each according to their abilities). And thereafter, he left on his trip.

 16‘Well, the one who got the five went right out and put [his five coins] to work, gaining five more coins.

 17‘The same was true of the slave who’d received two; he gained two more.

 18‘But [the slave] that received just one went and dug a hole in the ground, where he buried his master’s silver.

 19‘Then after some time, the master of those slaves [finally] returned and he called them in for an accounting.

 20‘So the one who received the five coins came forward carrying the five more and said:

 *‘Lord, you gave me five coins, and look… I’ve gained you five more!’*

 21‘And his master said:

 *‘Well done, good and faithful slave! Since you’ve been faithful in a few things, I’ll appoint you over many… Enjoy the favor of your Lord!’*

 22‘Next, the one who received the two coins came forward and said to his master:

 *‘Lord, you gave me two coins, and look… I’ve gained you two more!’*

 23‘So his master said to him:

 *‘You’ve done well, my good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few things, so I’ll appoint you over many… Share in the joy of your Lord!’*

 24‘Finally, the [slave] that was given the one coin came up to his master and said:

 *‘Lord, I know that you’re a hard man who reaps where he doesn’t sow and harvests where he doesn’t plant.* 25*So because I was afraid, I hid your coin in the ground. Now see; I give you what’s yours!’*

 26‘In reply, his master then said to him:

 *‘O you wicked and lazy slave!*

 *‘So you know that I reap where I don’t sow and I harvest where I don’t plant, do you?* 27*Then you should have deposited my silver with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received what’s mine with interest!*

 28*‘So now; take the coin away from him and give it to the one who has 10 coins.* 29*Because, more will be given to those who have, and they’ll have plenty. But it’ll all be taken from those who don’t have.*

 30*‘Now, throw this useless slave into the darkness outside, where he will weep and grind his teeth!’*

 31‘Likewise, this is what’s going to happen when the Son of Man arrives in his glory along with all of the messengers:

 ‘He’s going to sit down on his glorious throne, 32and all nations will be led before him. Then he’ll separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

 33‘He will put the sheep on his right, but the goats on his left.

 34‘And at that, the king will say to those on his right:

 *‘Come, you who’ve been praised by my Father; inherit the Kingdom that has been prepared for you since the founding of the arrangement.*

 35*‘For when I was hungry, you fed me.*
 *When I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink.*
 *When I was a stranger, you took me in.*
 36*When I was naked, you clothed me.*
 *When I was sick, you looked after me.*
 *And when I was in prison, you came to me.’*

 37‘Then the righteous will ask:

 *‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?* 38*When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you?* 39*Yes, when did we see you sick or in prison and come to your [aid]?’*

 40‘And the king will say:

 *‘I tell you the truth: when you did it for the least of my brothers, you also did it for me.’*

 41‘Then he will say to those on his left:

 *‘Leave me, you who’ve been cursed into the age-long fire that was prepared for the Opposer and his messengers!*

 42*‘For when I was hungry, you didn’t feed me.*
 *When I was thirsty, you gave me nothing to drink.*
 43*When I was a stranger, you didn’t take me in.*
 *When I was naked, you didn’t clothe me.*
 *And when I was sick and in prison, you didn’t come to my aid.’*

 44‘Then they’ll also ask:

 *‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and not serve your needs?’*

 45‘And he will answer:

 *‘I tell you the truth; when you didn’t do it for one of these least ones, you didn’t do it for me.’*

 46‘Then these will go into an age-long lopping off, as the righteous go into age-long life.’

### Matthew

## Chapter 26

1Well, after Jesus had finished saying all these things, he told his disciples this:

 2‘You know that the Passover will be here in just two days, and the Son of Man is going to be betrayed and hung on a pole.’

3Meanwhile, the Chief Priests and the peoples’ elders had all gathered in the courtyard of the High Priest (who was called CaiAphas) 4to discuss sneaky ways to grab Jesus and kill him.

5However, they decided not [to do it] at the festival, because that would have created a commotion among the people.

6Then, while Jesus was in BethAny at the house of Simon the leper, 7a woman arrived carrying an expensive alabaster case of perfumed oil. She came to him as he was lying down and started pouring it over his head. 8When the disciples saw what she was doing, they were bothered by it and they asked her:

 ‘Why are you wasting this? 9We could have sold this for a lot [of money] and given it to the poor!’

10But Jesus asked:

 ‘Why are you bothering this woman? She just did a nice thing for me! 11You’ll always have the poor, but you won’t always have me.

 12‘When this woman poured the oil on my body, she did it to prepare me for my burial. 13And I tell you the truth: wherever this good news is preached throughout the entire world, what this woman did for me will be told in memory of her!’

14Well after that, one of the 12 (the one called Judas IsCariot) went to the Chief Priests 15and asked them:

 ‘What will you give me if I betray [Jesus] to you?’

And they told him that they’d pay him 30 silver coins [which is about a month’s wage]. 16So from that point on, [Judas] started looking for a good opportunity to betray [Jesus].

17Now, since it was [just before] the first day of [Passover], Jesus’ disciples came up to him and asked:

 ‘Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?’

18And he told them:

 ‘Go into the city to (a certain person), and tell him that the Teacher says:

 *‘My appointed time is near, so I’ll celebrate the Passover with my disciples in your home.’*

19Therefore, the disciples went and did just as Jesus told them and they got everything ready for the Passover.

20Then later that evening, while [Jesus] was reclining at the table 21eating with the 12 disciples, he said to them:

 ‘I tell you the truth; one of you will betray me.’

22Well, they were all deeply saddened by this, and they each asked him:

 ‘Lord, it isn’t me, is it?’

23Then he said:

 ‘One [of you] who has dipped his hand into this bowl with me will betray me.

 24‘It’s a fact that the Son of Man must leave… Just as it was written about him. But woe to the one through whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for him had he never been born!’

25Then Judas (the one who was about to betray him) asked:

 ‘That isn’t what I am, is it Rabbi?’

And [Jesus] replied:

 ‘You said it yourself.’

26Well thereafter, as they were eating, Jesus took a loaf, and after giving thanks, he broke it and distributed it among the disciples and said:

 ‘Take some of this and eat it, because this is my body.’

27He also took a cup [of wine], and after giving thanks, he passed it among them and said:

 ‘All of you should drink from this; 28for indeed, this is my blood of the Sacred Agreement with the many, which is being poured out for the forgiveness of their sins.

 29‘However, I’m telling you now that I definitely won’t be drinking the product of the vine anymore until the day that I drink it with you as it has never been drunk before, in the Kingdom of my Father.’

30And finally, after singing songs of praise, they walked out to the Mount of Olives.

31[There] Jesus said to them:

 ‘All of you will be stumbled [by what will happen to] me tonight, because it’s written:

 *‘When the shepherd is struck, the sheep will be scattered.’* [Zechariah 13:7; see note]

32‘But after I wake up, I’ll go ahead of you into Galilee.’

33However, Peter said to him:

 ‘Although the others may be trapped, I’ll never stumble!’

34And Jesus said:

 ‘I tell you the truth: Before a rooster crows tonight, you’ll have denied knowing me three times.’

35Yet, Peter just kept on talking. He said:

 ‘Even if I have to die with you, I’ll never deny knowing you!’

And all the other disciples were saying the same thing.

36Then Jesus took his disciples to the spot called GethSemane (the Oil Press), and he said to them:

 ‘Now, sit here while I go over there to pray.’

37Well, he took Peter and the two sons of ZebediOu with him… And then he became very sad and deeply disturbed, 38and he said to them:

 ‘My soul has been saddened to the point of death. So, please wait here and stay awake with me.’

39Then, going a little way forward, he fell to his face and started praying, saying:

 ‘My Father; if it’s possible, let this cup pass from me. However, not my will, but Yours.’

40However, when he returned to the disciples, he found them sleeping.
So he asked Peter:

 ‘Aren’t you strong enough to stay awake with me for just an hour? 41You should stay awake and pray that you won’t be put to the test! But indeed… Although the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak.’

42So he went off and prayed a second time, saying:

 ‘My Father; if this can’t pass and I have to drink it, may Your Will be done.’

43And when he got back, he found them sleeping again, because their eyes were heavy. 44So then he left them and went to pray a third time, and he said the same things once more. 45And when he got back to his disciples, he said to them:

 ‘Here you’re resting and sleeping… And look! The time has arrived when the Son of Man will be handed over to sinners. 46Get up… Let’s go! Look! Here comes my betrayer!’

47And while he was still speaking, {Look!} Judas (one of the 12) arrived with a large mob of Priests and elders, each of whom was carrying a sword or a club!

48Now, the betrayer had given them a sign to watch for. He said:

 ‘Whomever I kiss is the one… Grab him!’

49And going straight up to Jesus, [Judas] greeted him with the words, ‘Rejoice, Rabbi!’ as he tenderly kissed him.

50But Jesus said to him:

 ‘Man, just why are you here?’

Then [some of the mob] came up and grabbed Jesus, and they tied him up. 51However, {Look!} one of those who was with Jesus reached down and unsheathed his sword, and he struck the Chief Priest’s slave, taking off his ear.

52But then Jesus said to him:

 ‘Put your sword away! For all who take up the sword will perish by the sword!

 53‘Don’t you realize that I can ask my Father to immediately send more than 12 battalions of angels? 54But if [I did] that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?’

55Then Jesus spoke to the mob and said:

 ‘Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me like some robber? I used to sit and teach in the Temple every day, and you didn’t choose to grab me then! 56However, all of this has happened so that the writings of the Prophets can be fulfilled.’

Well at that, all the disciples ran away and left him.

57So then, those who had arrested Jesus carried him off to [the house of] CaiAphas the High Priest, where the Scribes and the elders had already assembled.

58Meanwhile, Peter followed the group some distance behind all the way to the courtyard of the High Priest. Then he went inside and sat among the building supervisory staff, to see what would happen.

59At the time, the Chief Priests and those of the Judean High Court had been trying to find [someone who would] lie about Jesus, so they could condemn him [to death]. 60However, of all those who came forward, none were willing to perjure themselves.

Yet later on, two did come forward that said:

 61‘This man told us that he could tear down the temple sanctuary of The God and rebuild it in just three days.’

62And after they heard that, the High Priest stood up and asked Jesus:

 ‘Don’t you have a reply? What are these people accusing you of?’

63However, Jesus just remained silent.

So the High Priest said to him:

 ‘By the living God, I put you under oath to tell us whether you’re the Anointed One… The Son of The God!’

64And Jesus replied:

 ‘You’re saying it yourself!

 ‘Now, let me tell you something: from this point on, you’ll see the Son of Man sitting at [His] powerful right hand and coming on the clouds in the sky!’

65Well at that, the High Priest ripped his clothes and he shouted:

 ‘He has blasphemed!

 ‘Why do we need any more witnesses? See… Now you’ve actually heard the blasphemy! 66Therefore, what’s your opinion?’

And everyone shouted:

 ‘Hold him for death!’

67Then after that, some of them started spitting in his face and hitting him with their fists, as others were slapping him 68and saying:

 ‘Prophesy to us, O Anointed One… Which of us hit you?’

69Meanwhile, as Peter was still sitting outside in the courtyard, a servant girl came up to him and said:

 ‘You were also with this Jesus the Galilean!’

70However, he denied it in front of everyone, and said:

 ‘I don’t know what she’s talking about!’

71Then as he [was walking out towards] the gatehouse, another girl noticed him and said to everyone there:

 ‘This man was with Jesus the Nazarene!’

72And once again he denied it with an oath, saying:

 ‘I never knew the man!’

73But then all those who were standing around came up and said to him:

 ‘Sure, you’re one of them! Why, your accent gives you away!’

74So Peter started cursing at them and swore:

 ‘I don’t know the man!’

And immediately, a rooster crowed.

75It was then that Peter remembered Jesus’ words:

 ‘Before a rooster crows you will have denied that you know me three times.’

So he went outside and cried bitterly.

### Matthew

## Chapter 27

1Then the next morning, all the Chief Priests and peoples’ elders held a meeting to discuss ways to have Jesus put to death. 2So they bound him and took him to be handed over to Governor Pilate.

3It was then that Judas (who had betrayed [Jesus]) realized that he was condemned. So, feeling deeply regretful about what he’d done, he tried to return the 30 silver [coins] to the Chief Priests and elders, 4saying:

 ‘I sinned when I betrayed righteous blood.’

But they replied:

 ‘What’s that to us? That’s your problem!’

5So at that, he threw the silver into the Temple and left… And then he went out and hung himself.

6Well, the chief priest then [picked up] the silver coins and said:

 ‘It isn’t legal for us to put these [coins] in the sacred treasury, because they’re the price of blood.’

7So after discussing it further, they decided to use them to purchase the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. 8And to this day, that field has been called, ‘The Field of Blood.’

9It was then that the words of the Prophet were fulfilled that he would take the 30 pieces of silver (which was the price that was put on a man, as was set by the sons of IsraEl) 10and use them to pay for the field of the potters, as Jehovah had said. [Zechariah 11:12-13]

11Next, they brought Jesus and stood him before the governor, who asked him:

 ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’

And Jesus replied:

 ‘You’re saying it yourself.’

12However, when the Chief Priests and elders were accusing him, he didn’t say anything.

13Then Pilate asked:

 ‘Don’t you hear all the things that they’re saying against you?’

14But [Jesus] wouldn’t answer him – he didn’t say a word – and that really got the governor wondering.

15Now, it was the governor’s custom to release whichever prisoner the crowd wanted during these festivals. 16And at that time, they were holding a particularly notorious criminal called BarAbbas.
17So when the people gathered before him, Pilate asked:

 ‘Which do you want me to release to you, BarAbbas or Jesus… The so-called Anointed One?’

18Well, [Pilate] knew that the only reason they had bound [Jesus] over, was because they were jealous of him. 19Also, while he was sitting on his judgment seat, [Pilate’s] wife had sent [a message] to him, saying:

 ‘Don’t have anything to do with that righteous man, because I suffered a lot in a dream today over him.’

20However, the Chief Priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for BarAbbas, and to demand to have Jesus destroyed. 21So when the governor asked which of the two they wanted released, everyone shouted:

 ‘BarAbbas!’

22And when Pilate asked:

 ‘Then, what should I do with this Jesus, the so-called Anointed One?’

They all shouted:

 ‘Hang him up on a pole!’

23But he asked:

 ‘Why? What crime has he committed?’

And they all kept shouting louder and louder:

 ‘Hang him up on a pole!’

24Well, when he saw that he wasn’t doing any good and he was just inciting a riot, Pilate got some water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying:

 ‘I’m innocent of this man’s blood… You take the responsibility for this on yourselves!’

25And all the people said:

 ‘May we and our children be responsible for his blood!’

26So he then released BarAbbas to them, and he had Jesus whipped and bound over for impaling.

27Thereafter, the governor’s soldiers took Jesus inside the palace and they brought in the whole Battalion. 28There they removed [Jesus’] clothes, wrapped a scarlet cape around him, 29braided a crown of thorns and slipped it over his head, and they put a piece of cane in his right hand.

Then, kneeling down, they made fun of him by shouting the greeting:

 ‘Rejoice, O you King of the Jews!’

30They also spit on him and they took the cane and started hitting him on the head with it.

31Finally, after they had tired of their fun, they took off the cape, put his clothes back on, and took him out to be impaled.

32Well, as they were leading him out, they found a man from Cyrene [Libya] whose name was Simon, and they made him carry the pole.

33Then when they got to the place called GolGotha (Skull Place), 34they offered [Jesus] some wine mixed with gall to drink. But after he tasted it, he wouldn’t drink it.

35It was after [they had nailed] him on the pole that [the soldiers] then divided his clothes by throwing lots. 36And thereafter, they all just sat around and watched him.

37They also put a sign over his head that showed the charge against him:

 *‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.’*

38Two robbers were also hung on poles beside him… One on his right and the other on his left.

39Then those who were passing by started shouting terrible things at [Jesus], shaking their heads 40and saying:

 ‘O you who would tear down the Most Holy and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself! If you’re a son of The God, come down off the pole!’

41That’s the way the Chief Priests, Scribes, and elders also made fun of him.

They were saying:

 42‘He saved others, but he can’t save himself! If he’s the King of IsraEl, let him come down from the pole and we’ll believe him. 43He’s put his trust in God, so let [God] rescue him if He wants him. After all, he says, *I’m God’s Son*!’

44In fact, even the robbers that were hung on poles with him started saying cruel things to him.

45Then from the 6th to the 9th hours [12 noon to 3pm], darkness fell over the whole land.

46And at about the 9th hour [3pm], Jesus called out in a loud voice:

 *‘Eli, Eli;*
 *Lama sabachthani?’*

That is:

 *‘My God, my God;*
 *Why have you abandoned me?’*

47Well when some of those who were standing around heard this, they thought he was calling for EliJah. 48And immediately, one of them ran and took a sponge, soaked it in vinegar, then lifted it on a reed to give him something to drink.

49But the rest of them said:

 ‘Leave him alone! Let’s see if EliJah comes to save him!’

Finally, a man took a spear and jabbed it into his side, and blood mixed with water poured out. 50Then Jesus cried out loudly and gave up his breath.

51And at that, {Look!} the Temple’s [inner] curtain ripped in two from the top to the bottom, as the ground shook and rocks split! 52~~and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised~~ 53~~and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.~~ [spurious text]

54But the army officer and those with him that were watching over Jesus (after they saw the earthquake and the other things that had happened) were really frightened and said:

 ‘This truly was God’s Son!’

55Well during this entire time, many women were standing around and watching from a distance. These women had traveled with Jesus from Galilee in order to serve him. 56They included Mary from Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of the sons of ZebediOu.

57Then later that afternoon, a rich man from HariMathea named JoSeph (who was also a disciple of Jesus) 58went to Pilate and asked for his body. So Pilate commanded that it should be given to him.

59Therefore, JoSeph took the body, wrapped it up in fine clean linen, 60and laid it in a new tomb that had just been quarried in the bedrock. And after rolling a large rock against the tomb entrance, he left.

61Meanwhile, Mary from Magdala and the other Mary just sat there across from the tomb.

62Then the next day (after the Preparation), the Chief Priests and Pharisees gathered and they went before Pilate to say:

 63‘Lord,

 ‘We remember that while he was alive, that impostor said:

 *‘In three days, I’ll be raised.’*

 64‘Therefore, order the grave to be made secure until the third day, so his disciples don’t go there and steal him, then tell the people that he was raised from the dead.

 ‘For that would make this last deceit even worse than the first!’

65But Pilate replied:

 ‘You have watchmen; go make it as secure as you know how.’

66So they went and made the grave secure by sealing the stone and posting guards [at the end of the Sabbath, that is, Saturday evening].

### Matthew

## Chapter 28

1~~At the end the Sabbath,~~ [see note] But at dawn on the first day of the week, [that is, Sunday,] Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

2But {Look!} something tumultuous had [previously] occurred… Jehovah’s messenger had come down from heaven and rolled away the stone, and [now] there he was – sitting on top of it!

3He looked like lightning and his clothes were as white as snow… 4Which made the watchmen shake in fear and become as dead men.

5Then the messenger said to the women:

 ‘Don’t be afraid, for I know that you’re looking for Jesus who was impaled. 6He isn’t here, because he was raised, just as he said [would happen]. Come and see the place where he was lying, 7then hurry and tell his disciples that he was raised from the dead.

 ‘Why look… He’s gone ahead of you into Galilee! Look! You’ll see him there, just as I said.’

8So they quickly left the tomb (both in fear and great joy), and they ran to report [what they’d seen] to his disciples. 9However, {Look!} Jesus then [appeared] to them, greeting them with the word:

 ‘Rejoice!’

So they both went up to him and bowed low at his feet.

10And Jesus said:

 ‘Don’t be afraid! Go and report [what you’ve seen] to my brothers. [Tell them to] go back to Galilee… They’ll see me there.’

11Meanwhile, while [the women] were on their way back, {Look!} some of the guards had returned to the city to report all that had happened to the Chief Priests. 12And after holding a conference and meeting with the elders to ask for advice, they all [bribed] the soldiers with enough silver, 13and said:

 ‘Tell the people that his disciples came during the night and stole [his body] while you were sleeping. 14And if the governor hears about this, don’t worry. We’ll persuade [him] to release you.’

15So [the guards] took the silver and did as they were told.

And the story that they made up has been spread among Judeans everywhere down to this day.

16However, the 11 disciples then went back to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged [to meet] them. 17And when they saw him, they all bowed low before him (although there were some that doubted).

18Then coming towards them, Jesus spoke and said:

 ‘All the power in the heavens and on the earth has now been given to me.
19So now, go make disciples in all the nations in my name, ~~immersing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit~~ [possibly spurious words], 20and teach them to obey all the things that I’ve commanded.

 ‘Look… I’ll be with you every day until the end of the age!’